Ramos, Biazon, Pichay floated as Reyes successor

Story below, Col. 1

DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY!

Floridians happiest Americans

WASHINGTON—They don't call it the Sunshine State for nothing:' Residents of the US state of Florida are the happiest Americans, according to a new poll released Saturday.

FLORIDIANS/ A19

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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Ex-Erap pal ambushed

A FORMER associate of ex-President Joseph Estrada who turned against him was reported ambushed in Parañaque City last night.

Parañaque police chief Supt. Ronald Estilles said Danny Devnani and his driver were on the President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue at 9:15 p.m. when armed men on board a black, tinted van fired six times at their white Toyota Corolla (XAD 897).

Devnani and his driver were unharmed. *Christian Esguerra*

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, September 1, 2003 ★★★ 72 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 265 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Ping: Mike A still undecided on Pidal

Meet urged to put nat'l unity gov't on agenda

By Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

A WORKING group consisting of administration and opposition members will meet this week to prepare the agenda for next week's political summit, Senate President Franklin Drilon told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"This is in order that the agenda of the political summit will be a joint effort (of the administration and opposition)," Drilon said in a phone interview.

But a former aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo jumped the gun on the working group, proposing yesterday the formation of a "government of national unity," starting with the appointment of opposition members to the Cabinet, particularly the recently vacated defense portfolio.

Bulacan Rep. Wilfrido Villarama, a self-styled independent, said the summit could serve as a platform to launch a "government of cooperation." He served as chief of staff of Ms Macapagal when she was the Vice President.

"The purpose of the summit could be better served if the administration and major opposition parties agree to form a unity government with a common agenda for nation building," Villarama said. "A unity government where the major parties are represented and (are) participants in policy making."

Drilon, who proposed the idea

MEET/ A16

SIN'S BIRTHDAY GUESTS
President Macapagal and Church leaders attend the Mass officiated by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, who turned 75 yesterday, at the Manila Cathedral. Says Sin: "If the Pope tells me to go, I go. If he tells me to stay, I will stay." JESS YUSON

Malicious, says camp of Arroyo

TWO days before the Senate opens its inquiry into charges of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, his camp reportedly has yet to decide on who it will present as Jose Pidal, the owner of secret bank accounts identified by opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson as no other than Arroyo.

In a statement, Lacson yesterday claimed that Malacañang "operators" led by Ronaldo Puno, a former Cabinet member of deposed President Joseph Estrada, were "still at a loss on whether to present Ignacio Arroyo or a certain Kenneth Yap as 'Jose Pidal.'"

Mike Arroyo's counsel, lawyer Jess Santos, denied the senator's claim as "malicious information."

Santos said in a statement that Lacson himself was "guilty of having manufactured a vicious smear campaign against the First Gentleman, without any basis in fact and with no evidence that can stand the scrutiny of the courts."

Ignacio Arroyo is the younger brother of the First Gentleman who claimed ownership of two pieces of property in San Francisco, California, that were earlier reported to be owned by the First Couple.

Yap, president of Primetown Realty Development Corp., had an "unsuccessful real estate business in Bulacan and Novaliches," according to Lacson.

Yap is known to be a business partner of Greggy Araneta, a cousin of the First Gentleman. He is also close to Diosdado Macapagal Jr., a brother of the President.

"Obviously, the Arroyo camp cannot yet decide on who to present as Jose Pidal before the media, which is the reason why it tried testing the waters by using GMA 7 to present a faceless Jose

PING/ A19

Ramos, Biazon, Pichay floated as Reyes successor

By Carlito Pablo

TWO days after Angelo Reyes resigned as defense secretary, the political air is thick with suggestions for his replacement.

One name is familiar: ex-President Fidel Ramos, who served as secretary of national defense under President Corazon Aquino.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez (NP, Iloilo City) said Ramos would make an ideal choice. "Only Ramos can unite the Armed Forces and he has proven this during his administration," he said.

Gonzalez was seconded by Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan), the son of Ramos' archrival in the 1992 elections, the late Speaker Ramon Mitra.

While Ramos may decline a Cabinet position because he had already served as the President, the young Mitra said, "he must give it a thought because his services may be needed now."

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said Malacañang could consider another former AFP chief of staff: opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

"Pong Biazon will be a good

RAMOS/ A20

'04 voters reminded on validation

By Martin P. Marfil

ANGELO, a third year college student, who turned 19 recently, plans to vote in next year's elections. But like most youths his age, he does not know that the registration for first-time voters started on Aug. 4 and will end in October.

"I want to vote, but I wasn't able to register," said Angelo, who is taking up AB Consular and Diplomatic Affairs at the College of Saint Benilde in Manila. "My friends also want to participate in the elections but we've been busy the past months."

There are some 4 million new voters out of the total of 38 million voters.

Those who voted in past elections are required to validate their registration records from Aug. 4 to Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., including Saturdays and Sundays. Failure to do so will disqualify them from voting in the local and national elections on May 10, 2004.

The validation of voters' registration records is expected to list up 10 million voters, according to the Commission on Elections. The poll body said the figure was the total number of voters that its data capturing machines could validate.

"Anyway, those who are not able to validate their registration can still vote if they voted in the previous election. However, their names can be contested and will be placed on a watchlist," Diego Cagahastian, Comelec information chief, said.

'04 VOTERS/ A16

Life of GMA administration being fought in DND

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

ANGELO Reyes resigned as secretary of national defense in a decisive fashion, cutting swiftly and cleanly as he did in January 2001, when he withdrew the support of the Armed Forces from the tottering administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Never opaque over his reasons for his exit from strategic zones in the center of power, Reyes, in 2001, explained that he wheeled the Armed Forces of the Philippines' chain of command behind the defection to halt the country from plunging into civil strife in the wake of the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada.

While Reyes' defection precipitated the collapse of the Estrada regime, this time his departure from President Macapagal's Cabinet was aimed at saving her administration, which has come under concerted attacks from her political adversaries and mutinous segments of the military.

In resigning from the Cabinet, Reyes defined the issue in the crisis of this administration—and his stand in defense of democracy—by lashing out at "a well-orga-

LIFE/ A20

Magsaysay awardee absent but not silent

2003 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees

JAPAN's Dr. Tetsu Nakamura for Peace and International Understanding **SHINGO Nomura,** representing Japan's Seiei Toyama for Peace and International Understanding **INDIA's** Shantha Sinha for Community Leadership **EAST TIMOR's** Aniceto Guterres Lopes for Emergent Leadership **INDIA's** James Michael Lyngdoh, for Government Service **SHIELA Coronel** for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts **ZHOU** Xingping, representing China's Gao Yaojie for Public Service

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"A DEAD pig does not care about hot water" is a Chinese saying she loves to say. Often she is more direct: "What could they do to an old woman like me?"

Dr. Gao Yaojie, 76, is not afraid. Not of the Chinese authorities that have tried to keep her quiet and prevented her from traveling abroad; not of AIDS, the deadly disease that have ravaged much of the province of Henan; and definitely not of old age.

Gao is one of the seven winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2003. But the awardee for the public service category was not able to come for yesterday's ceremony because she could not get a passport. Two years ago, she also could not travel to the United States to receive the Jonathan Mann Award for Global Health and Human Rights for the same reason. Gao has, in fact, never left China in all her life.

Recently, she mailed to her representative a tape with her message for the award-giving body. It arrived with its

MAGSAYSAY/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon, Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/01/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

GMA condemns plot of 'viruses of society'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG already has the details of the "well-funded and well-organized" destabilization plot cited by resigned Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and was gathering evidence against certain individuals who were "plotting to bring down the government," President Macapagal-Arroyo and her top security official said yesterday.

In transcripts of a planned weekend radio address released by Malacañang, the President called on Filipinos to remain vigilant and help her frustrate the attempts of what she called "the viruses of society."

"I assure you that I will not allow them to succeed. These conspirators are desperate because the nation's institutions are standing firm. I am warning them again to stop violating the Constitution," she said.

The President blamed these efforts, as well as "speculators" who she did not name, for the fall of the peso.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the destabilizing efforts were focused on undermining some institutions.

He hinted that the destabilization threats that Reyes warned against were related to the July 27 failed coup, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's allegations of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and a purported plan last week of supporters of jailed ex-president Estrada to seize the Edsa Shrine and surrounding buildings.

"They may not appear related, but it could be a case of exploiting a certain situation. Let's say some civilian groups might try to exploit the disgruntled, misguided officers, poison their minds about certain things, aggravate the situation, agitate them," Golez told reporters.

He said it was also possible that the people behind the destabilization plot were now in a "tactical alliance" with forces from the Left.

Golez warned against what he called "abusive" political actions.

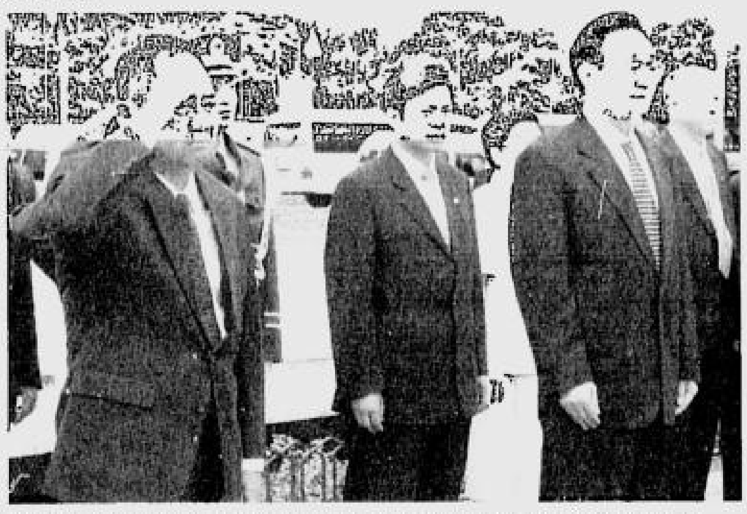
"We respect legitimate political activities. But if some groups would cross the line, then we will take firm action. We will not allow any unconstitutional actions," he said.

Also yesterday, administration Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri called on Malacañang to declassify the report on the destabilization plot cited by Reyes.

Zubiri said this would address three concerns: calm the public about the counter-measures being taken, unmask the plotters and prevent the government itself from going on a witch hunt.

Zubiri also recommended that the President "address a joint session of Congress, if the threats are really serious."

"Otherwise the whole nation will be speculating and the rumor mill will be running non-stop. *Chismis* (rumor) is the workshop of the devil," he said. *With a report from AFP*



WU Bangguo (right), chair of China's parliament, attends wreath-laying rites at the Rizal Monument on Sunday, with Speaker Jose de Venecia (left).
JESS YUSON

China seeks joint Spratly dev't efforts

By Carlito Pablo

CHINA yesterday proposed the joint oil exploration and development of the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea with other claimants to the potentially oil-rich archipelago in what has been termed a breakthrough in easing tensions in the region's potential flashpoint.

Wu Bangguo, chair of China's National People's Congress, made the proposal during a meeting with congressional leaders . while in Manila to attend an Asian parliamentarians' conference.

Wu proposed beginning the program with the Philippines and China and covering the other claimants as well, said Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, China and Taiwan claim the Spratly islands.

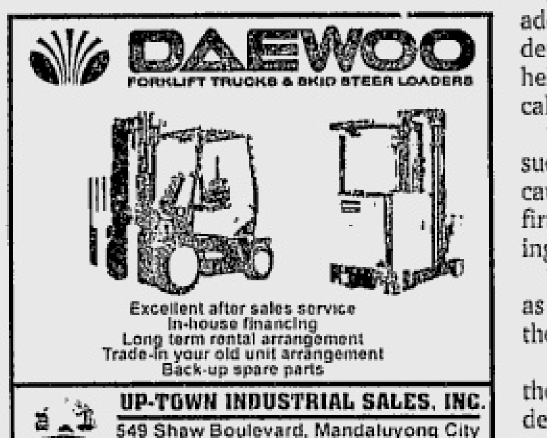
But Wu did not give details of his plan.

The Spratlys are believed to sit on top of vast reserves of oil and gas but their commercial potential has never been confirmed. They also flank international shipping lanes.

De Venecia said the proposed joint development "would lead to a diplomatic breakthrough in this area following the important statement of China earlier and the Philippines and the other Asean countries to agree on a common code of conduct in the South China Sea."

He said the proposed joint exploration and development program would spur economic development in Southeast Asia.

"These areas are idle and we might as well let them bloom and for joint profit sharing or multiple profit sharing by all," he said. *With AFP*



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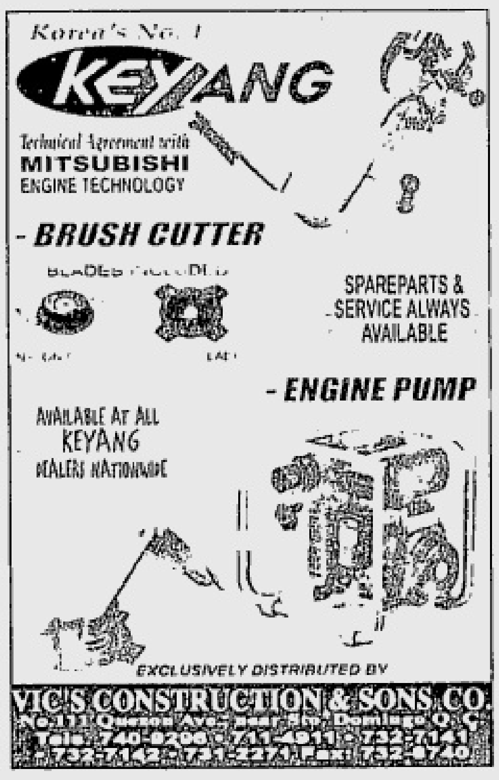

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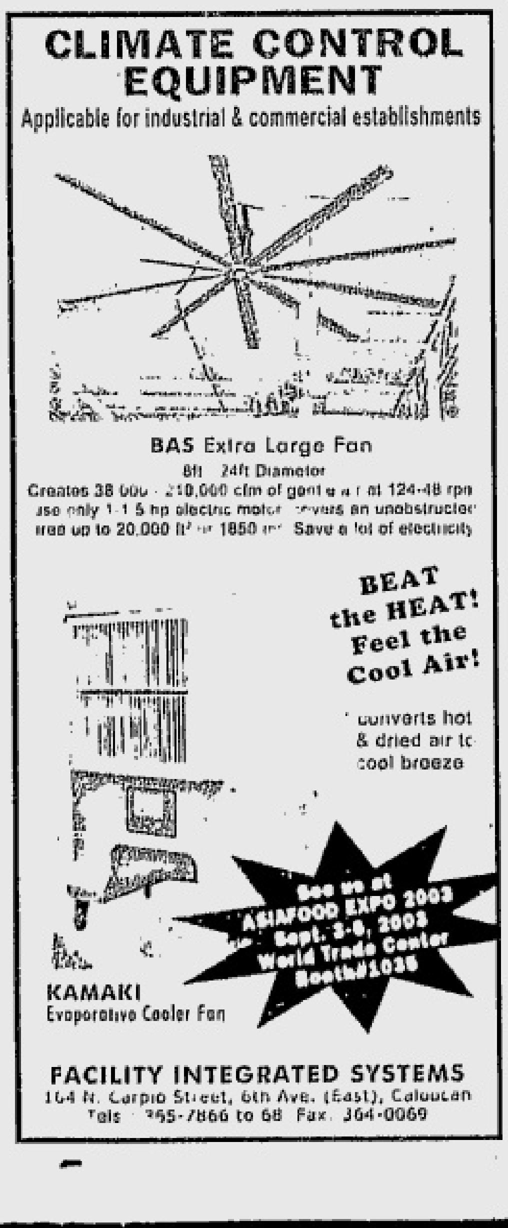

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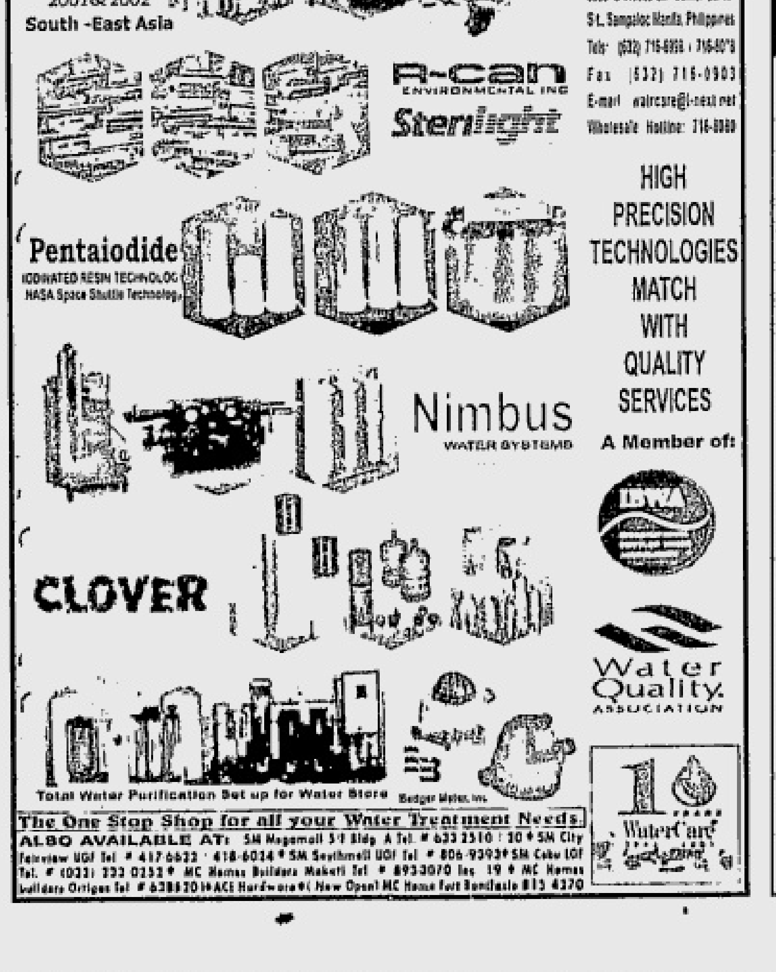

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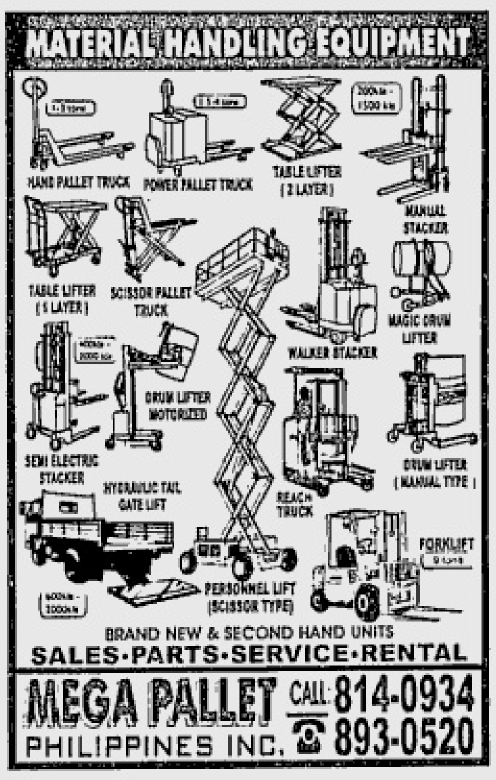

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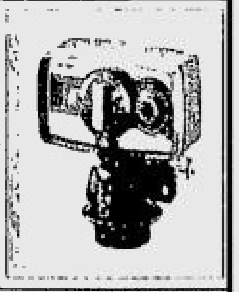

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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. Long Mejia played which comedian in last week's "Maalaala Mo Kaya"?
   a. Joey De Leon
   b. Redford White
   c. George Javier
   d. Rene Requiestas
2. Who is the editor-in-chief of Inquirer Libre?
   a. Chito Chat
   b. Chito dela Vega
   c. Chito Merced
   d. Chito Roño
3. Who is the Filipino inventor of Quink (quick drying pen ink)?
   a. Jose Rizal
   b. Julian Felipe
   c. Thomas Edison
   d. Francisco Quisumbing
4. How many members of F4 are coming to Manila?
   a. 215
   b. 2
   c. 2/3
   d. 4
5. Fish eggs are also known as...
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   d. Merlot

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo did the right thing in apologizing to Acsa Ramirez, the Landbank cashier who blew the whistle on the P431-million tax diversion scam but was falsely accused of complicity by the National Bureau of Investigation, according to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

But an apology was not enough to make it up to Ramirez who endured "public humiliation" and even suffered a miscarriage as a result of the incident, he said.

Pimentel said erring NBI investigators should be punished for making the mistake.

"Those who were responsible for the grievous wrongdoing should be sacked," he said.

"I think it is not right to say that everything is settled after the authorities told her they were sorry," he said.

Pimentel said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco would not have pursued the case against Ramirez if certain investigators and low-level officials did not feed him the wrong information.

Ramirez was accused of involvement in the scam by the NBI.

The President and Wycoco presented her as a suspect in a press conference exactly a year ago. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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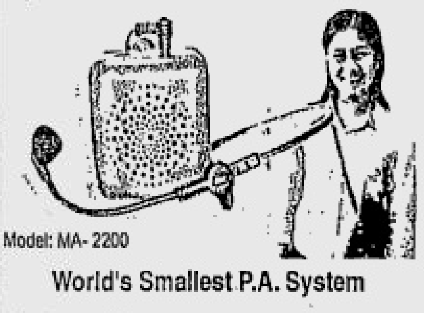

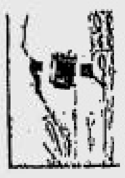

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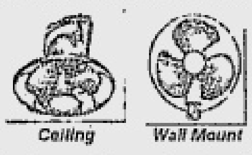

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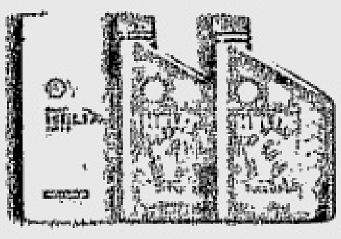

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GMA will run in 2004, says Eastern Visayas Lakas official

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pangangailangan. Tagapagdala
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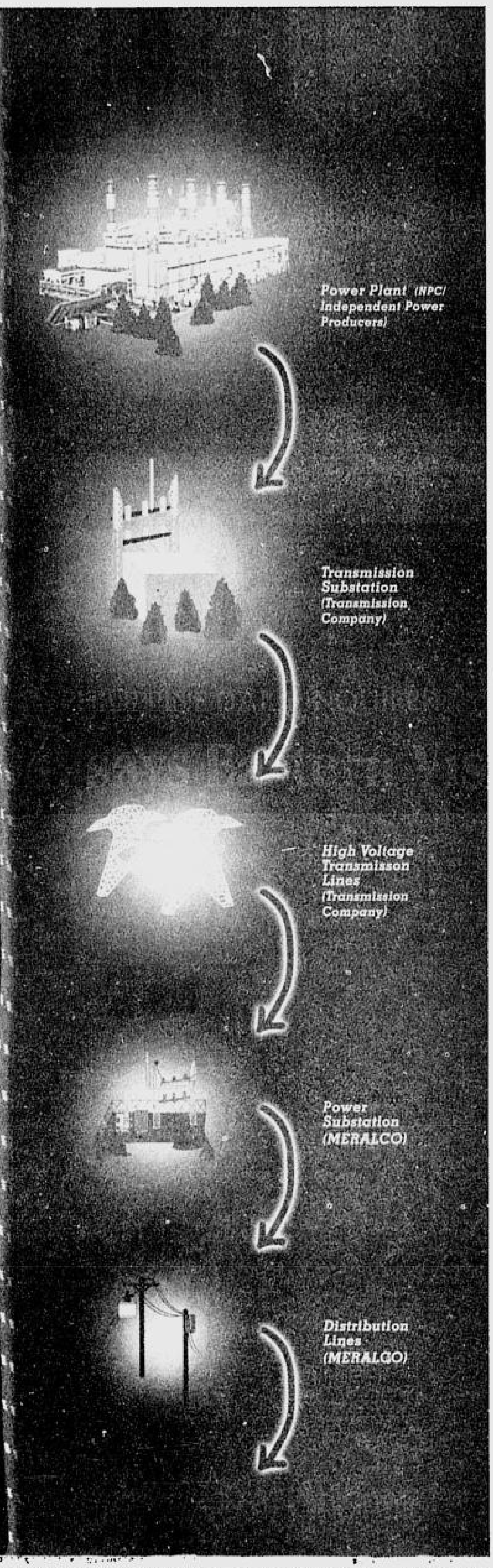
mga kinauukulan. Walang labis,
walang kulang.
Maaasahan n'yo.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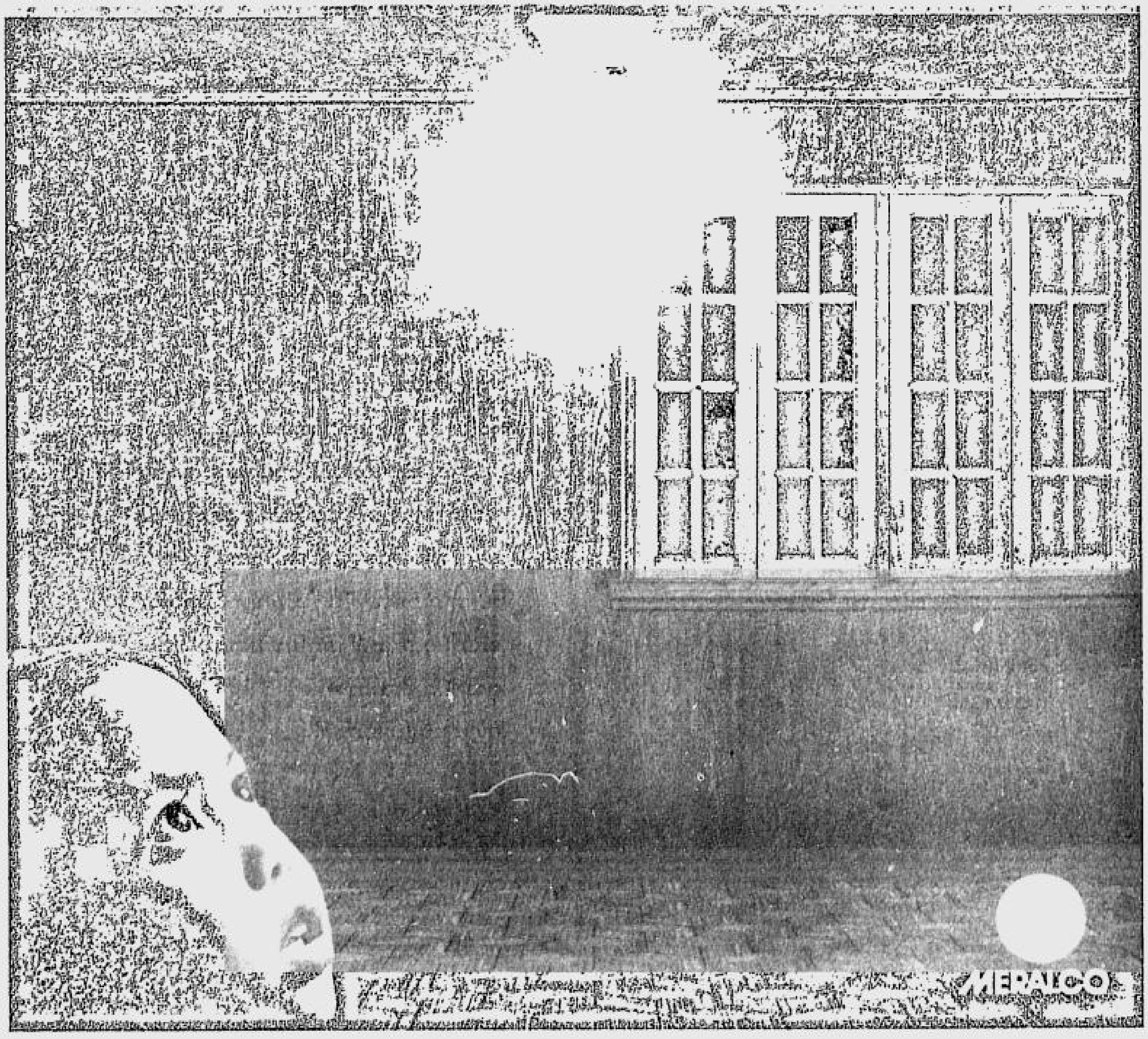

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—"Yes, the President will run."

A top official of the ruling Lakas-CMD in Eastern Visayas has confirmed that President Macapagal-Arroyo will seek a full term in the November 2004 polls.

According to George Tiopes, regional coordinator of Lakas-CMD, the President will probably make a formal announcement in October, "during or after the state visit of United States President George W. Bush."

Improved popularity ratings sealed the decision for Ms Macapagal, he said, referring to the latest Pulse Asia survey, where the President came in second to Sen. Noli de Castro.

Tiopes said that three members of the ruling party's executive committee were here last week to inform Eastern Visayas officials of Ms Macapagal's decision.

Tiopes identified the three Lakas leaders as Rodolfo Serrano, deputy secretary general for operations; Cecille Panlilio, deputy secretary general for the Visayas; and Undersecretary Tony Gatuslao, presidential liaison officer.

Tiopes said party officials were persuading former education secretary Raul Roco to consider being Ms Macapagal's running mate and were confident that Roco would agree.

Tiopes recounted that Serrano, Panlilio and Gatuslao separately met party regional officials at the Leyte Park Hotel and at the residence of ex-Rep. Sergio Apostol, the Lakas-CMD regional chair.

The officials were asked to ensure the President's victory in Eastern Visayas, the region being one of the administration's "weak" spots, according to a survey commissioned by the party last July.

Eastern Visayas consists of the provinces of Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Biliran, Leyte and Southern Leyte. It has more than 1.3 million registered voters.

The survey indicated that in the whole region, Ms Macapagal was least popular in Samar, where opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and movie star Fernando Poe Jr. were the stronger contenders for president.

Jakarta to teach RP how to handle terror attacks

THE PHILIPPINES will send a team of investigators to Jakarta to learn how Indonesian authorities handle terrorist attacks.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez made this decision yesterday after meeting with his Indonesian counterpart, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Golez said the team would consist of probers from the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

The idea was for the Filipinos to observe and acquire "the best practices, for instance how Indonesian officials investigated the Marriot bombing," Golez told reporters.

Details of the deployment would be finalized after a forum on counter-terrorism to be conducted by his office on Friday, Golez said.

He suggested that hotels and other establishments here be rated based on security standards to be discussed at the forum.

This idea came from Yudhoyono who said that security standards had been set for all hotels in Indonesia after the Bali bombing last October.

Golez said this was "something we can replicate here in the Philippines." *Christian V. Esguerra*

Clark marks 100th year

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—President Macapagal-Arroyo leads today the ceremonies commemorating the centennial anniversary of Clark Air Base, formerly the biggest US military base in Asia before its conversion into a special economic zone.

Clark is now the Philippines' biggest investment hub, hosting more than 300 companies.

"It provides a glimpse of significant events in Philippine history," Ms Macapagal said of Clark's 100 years.

Clark Air Base was established on Sept. 1, 1903 through an executive order signed by then US President Theodore Roosevelt declaring a military reservation out of a forested abode of the Aetas.

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China in $1-B currency swap scheme with RP

CHINA has agreed to a $1-billion currency swap arrangement with the Philippines and has pledged soft loans up to $500 million to help the country to modernize railways and the agriculture sector, officials said yesterday.

The announcement was made during a visit by Beijing's No. 2 leader Wu Bangguo, chairman of the National People's Congress, China's parliament.

nder the agreement, to be effective for three years, the Philippines may exchange up to P55 billion for $1 billion of Chinese renminbi which is convertible in US dollars in the event of a balance of payments or temporary liquidity crisis.

It is part of the so-called Chiang Mai Initiative in which Southeast Asian countries aim to link their international reserves with those of China, South Korea and Japan to avoid a repeat of the 1997-1998 crisis.

Wu also pledged $400 million "very long-term concessional finance" to modernize about 200 km of railways tracks running north from Manila and also agreed to make available $100 million in concessional agricultural credits, including provision of hybrid rice seeds from China. *AFP*

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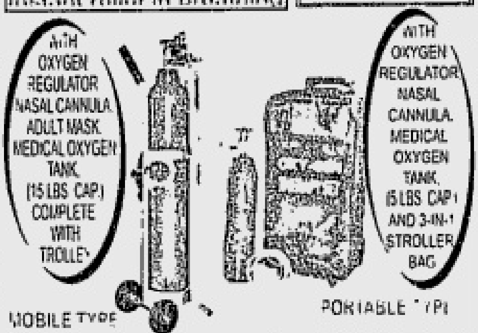

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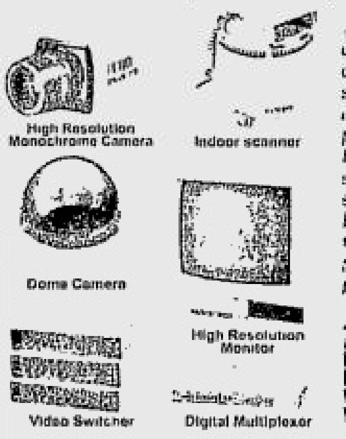

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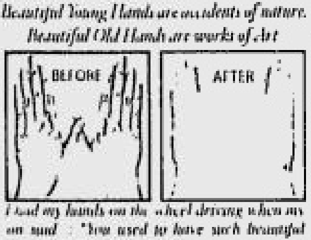

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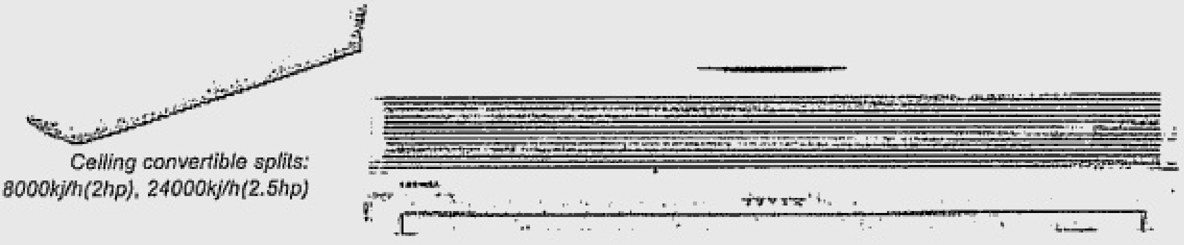

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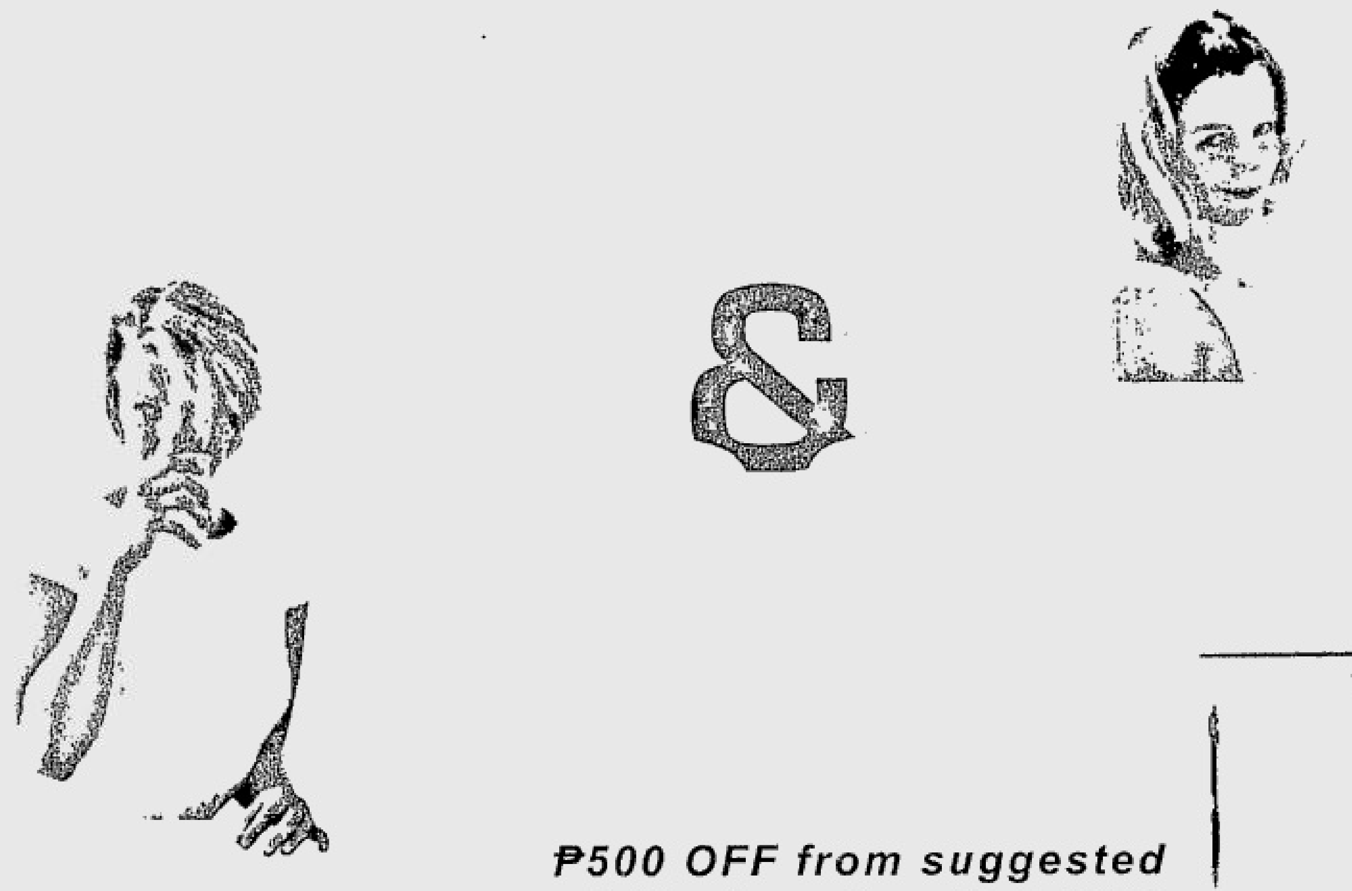

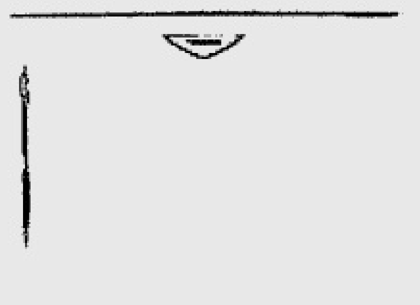

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Snapped

EDITORIAL

A WEEK after a grateful nation marked the 20th death anniversary of Benigno Aquino Jr., his youngest sister all but spit on his grave. Joining a funeral party of discredited politicians, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta last Wednesday called on President Macapagal Arroyo to resign. Among her somber reasons: "things are already getting out of hand."

She then posed with the likes of martial law officials turned born-again democrats, such as Juan Ponce Enrile and Francisco Tatad, in a picture-perfect moment that was truly worth a thousand words. Sadly for the memory of Ninoy Aquino, the words were all from the wrong political dictionary. Oreta's staff called newspapers on Wednesday night to request that she be cropped out of the picture. Readers can judge for themselves who obliged her and who did not.

The very next day, Oreta picked up a shovel and started digging away at her revered brother's grave. She called for a snap election to replace Ms Macapagal.

"Marcos went through that. Why can't she?" Oreta said, blithely, with all the grace she displayed when she danced on the Senate floor the night she, Enrile, Tatad and other pro-Joseph Estrada senators voted to keep the second Jose Velarde envelope unopened.

Calling Ms Macapagal a "stumbling block" to progress, Oreta reasoned: "We have to take drastic steps to put [the country back on] track."

She did not say, or did not realize, that the drastic step she was referring to was both illegal and unconstitutional.

"It cannot be done," opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said simply. Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo described Oreta's proposal as "very Marcosian." The reason the dictator Ferdinand Marcos could call for snap polls, he explained, was "because he could make the laws at that time."

"It's constitutionally impossible. Let's not talk about it," Arroyo said.

But talk about it we must, if only to point out that, by her statements last week, Oreta has disqualified herself from ever being taken seriously again.

She said the idea of a snap election was her own "view," but like a bad Estrada movie, her comeuppance is all too immediate and obvious. Last Thursday, Estrada's own People's Movement Against Poverty, through its president Ronald Lumbao, also called for a snap election.

Can this be mere coincidence?

It is a source of shame for some members of the Aquino family that Oreta today is more closely identified with Estrada than with her own martyred brother. Oreta is one of the "*balato* twins," who infamously received a P1-million gratuity from the mahjong-playing president. She accompanied Estrada on all his presidential trips, possibly something of a Senate record. She voted against the opening of the Velarde envelope and, with Estrada's original wife, is the deposed president's staunchest supporter in the upper chamber. In last week's funereal press briefing, she was in the elevated company of Estrada's politically active sons, JV Ejercito and Jinggoy Estrada.

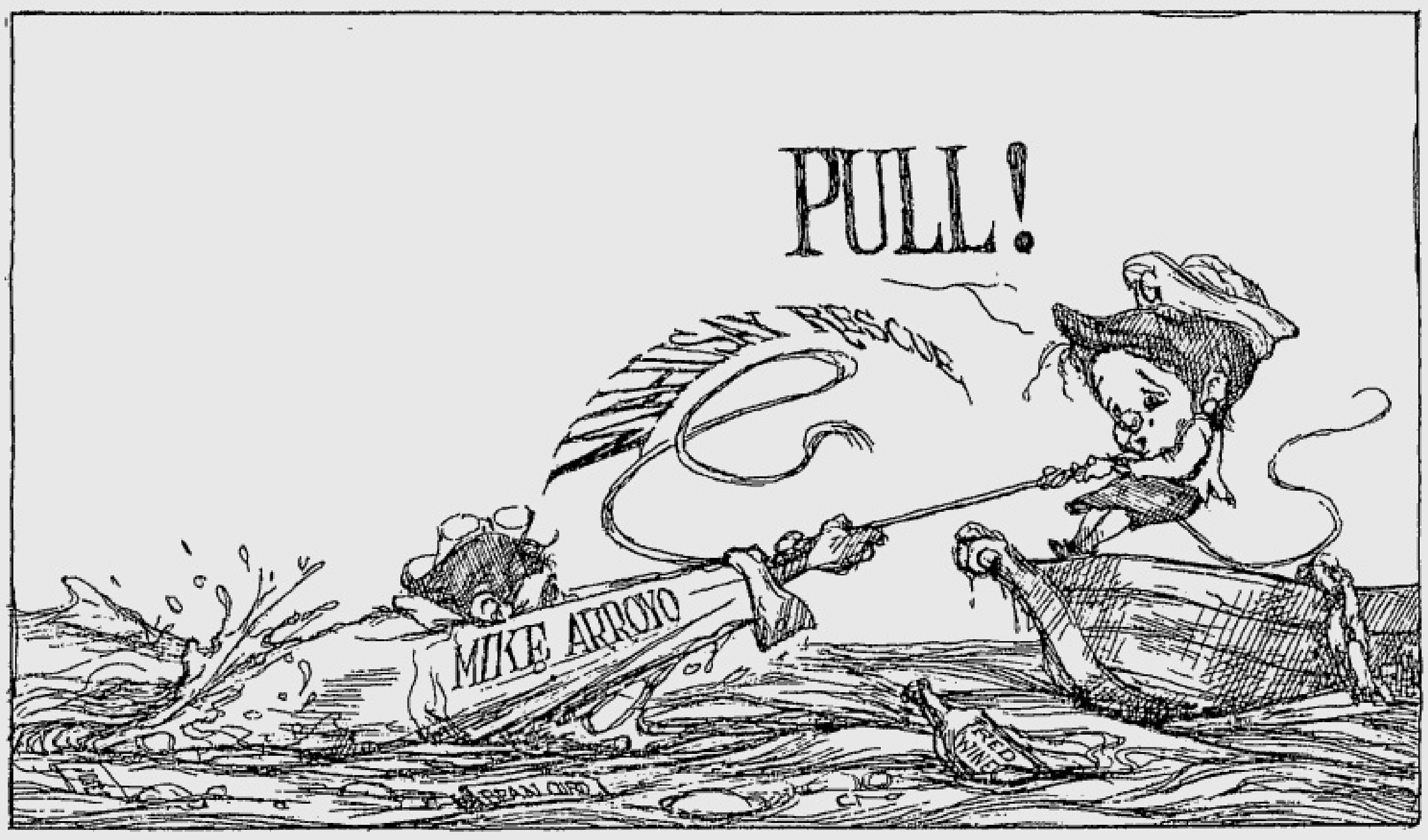
Given this record, does Oreta really think the public would buy her I-thought-of-this-myself line? The dramatic but patently illegal suggestion has the exact shape and lack of weight of an Estrada idea.

Even opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one of Estrada's post-plunder trial options, shot down Oreta's proposal—yet another indication that nine months before the next elections the political opposition is seriously riven.

Last Saturday, Oreta brought her trial balloon crashing down to earth. She found a face-saving excuse in Senate President Franklin Drilon's suggestion of a political summit. She said she welcomed it as a way to "help defuse the edgy political climate."

Mixed metaphors aside, Oreta would like us to believe that she has found religion in the idea of bipartisanship. Again, timing and her lack of respect for the people's capacity to think betray her. Drilon's proposal was aired the same day she called for a snap election.

The Aquino family has an important decision to make. Since 1967, an Aquino has served in the Senate. But Oreta is up for reelection next year. Will the legatees of Aquino's name choose equity of the incumbent over country?



I confess I am Jose Pidal

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THERE must be more than one secret Jose Pidal bank account—if that guy who claims he is Jose Pidal is telling the truth. Because I have a confession to make: I, me, *moi*, am the owner of that secret bank deposit that Sen. Panfilo Lacson said is in the name of Jose Pidal. If that guy really were Jose Pidal, then there must be another account under that name besides mine.

Why did I deposit the P36 million in the name of Jose Pidal and not in my own name? For the simple reason that many other husbands do the same thing: so our wives won't know.

Do I have a mistress for whom the secret deposit is intended? No, I have no secretary or accountant.

Where did I get the money? I won in the lotto—twice. But you won't find my name in the records of the Philippine Charity and Sweepstakes Office. I also used an alias when I collected my winnings. Why? Because if it is known that I won in the lotto, I won't have a moment of peace. Relatives, neighbors, friends and even strangers will troop to my house to ask for *balato*.

Why is my address the same as the office address of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo? Because I am really an admirer of Mr. Arroyo. My ambition is to be like him who is rich, doesn't work, only plays golf all the time and has many friends in money-making government agencies.

Do I know him? Who doesn't know the husband of the President, whose name and pictures are in the newspapers and television every day?

Why is our financial adviser the same? Who, Morgan Stanley? Because as I said I am an admirer of Mr. Arroyo; I always do what he does. Morgan Stanley is his financial adviser, so I chose Morgan Stanley. If I can find a woman who could someday be President of the Philippines, I will marry her, too.

Why did I choose the name Jose Pidal? Same as the above: I admire him. His name is Jose Miguel Arroyo, so I picked the name Jose. That the name of our national hero, Rizal, is also Jose is only secondary. Why Pidal? It's like this. I like to eat Lapid's *chicharon* and I also like to watch the movies of Lito Lapid. They're silly but because they are mostly action, I don't have to strain myself to listen to the dialogue and understand. So they relax me and I often go to sleep during most of the movies.

So I moved the letters of Lapid around and produced Pidal, just like Darna-Narda, see, also silly movies but I like to watch them because of the svelte figures of the actresses who played Darna. That's why I became a Vilmanian but not a Noranian and voted for Ralph Recto although I have been told by my *lolo* that he wouldn't be a good senator. My *lolo* was right, I know now; but if Ralph is good enough for Vilma, he is good enough for me.

So Lapid became Pidal in my bank account. That Mr. Arroyo's own *lolo* was also a Pidal is only a coincidence. But doesn't that show that it is written in the stars that Mr. Arroyo, Pidal and myself would be intertwined?

Why didn't I come out earlier? Why am I coming out only now? Because I was practicing how to sign the Jose Pidal name. You see, it has been a long time since I signed the Jose Pidal name and I was afraid my new signature may be different and the bank won't honor it. So I practiced first. Now I am ready to have our signatures compared by experts. But only by experts from the PNP and the NBI. I don't trust other experts from other agencies.

Am I known to other persons who work in Mr. Arroyo's office in the LTA building in Makati? *Siyempre*—if they're employees of Mr. Arroyo. In fact, I plan to have Mr. Arroyo himself as a witness. I will ask him to testify that I am indeed Jose Pidal and not him.

Why didn't he say beforehand that he knew Jose Pidal? He probably didn't know; I never told him. Now he knows. In fact, he must be happy that I came out. Now people will believe that he is not Jose Pidal.

I know what some people are thinking: that I am an impostor and that I am just after the P36 million in the Jose Pidal account.

Money means nothing to me. I can win in the lotto again even if the odds of a person winning there is 50 million to one. If I won twice before, I can win again. Or maybe in the casino. God is with me.

I don't intend to get the whole P36 million deposit for myself, anyway. I will get only a third, P12 million, for *puhunan* in the casino. That's enough for me. I will donate one-third to charity and the other third to my wife so she won't beat me up for hiding the money from her. I'm even going to pay taxes for them, just let me withdraw the money.

I hope this confession will settle the whole Jose Pidal mystery and that Mr. Arroyo will be cleared of any wrongdoing. That's the main reason for this confession.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKES (besides the tall story above):

A man walking alone on the beach found a bottle. He opened it and smoke whished out and became a genie.

"Thank you, Master," said the genie, "for releasing me from that prison. It's so small; worse than Veterans Hospital. In gratitude, I will grant your three wishes."

The man gave his three wishes: "*Gawin mo ko mayaman pero di bayad* tax; powerful *pero di trabaho*; notorious *pero walang sabit*."

Genie: "*Sige, mula ngayon ikaw na si* Jose Pidal."

* * *

Ate Glo felt sorry for Kuya Mike that she said: "Whatever happens, I love you."

Kuya Mike replied: "I love you Toh."

Apologies

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FINALLY, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has apologized to Acsa Ramirez. After repeatedly hugging the LandBank cashier in Malacañang, she said: "In behalf of the republic and the Filipino people, I wish to convey my deepest apologies for the inconvenience we have caused you. I can understand your anguish, but I had to wait (for the NBI to prove its case). At least one consolation is that it demonstrates the system works."

Ramirez herself accepted the President's apology after breaking into tears. "It's really important for me that my life returns to normal," she said.

So is this a case of all's well that ends well?

Not at all.

To begin with, the crafting of the President's apology merely compounds the original mistake. The original mistake was that GMA wrongly accused Acsa Ramirez of being a criminal. She did so while grandstanding about her apparent triumphs in fighting crime, presenting Ramirez in public as the culprit in the scam she exposed.

In her apology, GMA wrongly accuses the republic and the Filipino people of making that mistake. She does so while grandstanding about her apparent triumph over personal pride. I belong to the Filipino people and I do not feel I owe Ramirez an apology. Nor do I imagine Ramirez asking it of me or of anybody else, with the exception of Reynaldo Wycoco. I did not make the mistake. The 70 million or so souls in this country did not make the mistake. The republic which we constitute and which GMA (temporarily) heads did not make the mistake.

Only GMA did. Why should she drag all of us in her efforts to rectify it?

The mistake was a most horrendous one. At the very least, it dissuaded the citizens from reporting crimes by demonstrating that to do so made them suspects. It elevated to public policy the practice of treating Good Samaritans, who bring hit-and-run victims to hospitals, as the drunk drivers who injured them. At the very most, it turned someone who should have been an object of admiration into an object of scorn. Acsa Ramirez deserved a medal for what she did, instead she got a public humiliation.

Everyone makes mistakes, including the President of the Philippines. Not everyone compounds a horrible mistake by making more horrible ones. Indeed, not everyone tries to defend so horrible a mistake by mounting so horrible a persecution against the person upon whom a wrong has already been done. The time to have made the apology was there and then, as the republic and the Filipino people demanded. Indeed, as basic human decency demanded. I said before that the honor of the republic can never be put above the right of an individual to justice, as Emile Zola argued for Dreyfus, an innocent man who was jailed to preserve the honor of the French military. There is no honor in injustice.

But to hound someone, who personally deserves honor for what she has done, to preserve the pride of a President who erred from haste, that is capricious. It is not merely dishonorable, it is insane.

No, GMA does not understand the anguish Ramirez went through. Notwithstanding that they are both women and mothers. I've always thought it was cheeky to go to a wake and tell someone whose husband or child died gratuitously by violence, "I understand your pain." No, you do not. No one does, no one can. And to suggest you do is presumption of unforgivable proportions.

But to say, "I understand your anguish" to someone whose anguish you deliberately, systematically and implacably caused for reasons known only to you, that is a scale of iniquity beyond words. Only Ramirez, who lost a child from that anguish, can articulate it, by her heart, if not by her mouth.

All this proves that the system works? That is the last of the things it does. If Wycoco believed in what he was doing, if he thought he had one shred of evidence to implicate Ramirez in the crime she exposed—and he would never have known about it if she hadn't exposed it—he would even now be pursuing her with the doggedness of Javert. But what did he tell Ramirez after he learned—apparently he wasn't apprised of the plan—that the President was going to make a big show of apologizing to Ramirez in Malacañang? He was abandoning the case "to bring down the very high emotional temperature in the country." He added: "We want to bring this case to a nice closure. We know you've suffered emotionally."

What a thoroughly idiotic thing to say. Those will be the quotes of the year, "I understand your anguish" and "We want to bring this case to a nice closure." It will be a tossup which one gets first billing.

All it shows is that in this country today the law proceeds from presidential whim and ends on presidential whim. A presidential mistake is all it takes to set the wheels of (in)justice turning, a presidential apology—or what passes for it—is all it takes to ground them to a halt.

In fact what all this shows is that there is only one thing that works in this country today: power. You have power, you can do anything. You can set the guilty free—while at this, whatever has happened to the people Ramirez accused?—you can jail the innocent. Thankfully for Tina Panganiban-Perez, she belonged to an institution, the media, that had power too, and so got presidential hugs after a public humiliation for showing journalistic initiative. And thankfully for Acsa Ramirez, public opinion counts for power too, particularly as we near elections, and so got presidential hugs after a public humiliation for showing exemplary citizenship.

True contrition is shown only by one thing: Not doing again and again what one is sorry for. Otherwise, the principle behind the apology is not unlike the one that informs the lifestyle check. One is not sorry for committing the iniquity. One is merely sorry for getting caught.

* * *

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Crisis calls for FVR

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes tendered his resignation to help defuse the tension with some sectors in the military. For this he has to be saluted. It was an act of patriotism. I have always believed, however, that much of the clamor for his ouster came from the opposition which blamed him to a large degree for the military's withdrawal of support from President Estrada on Jan. 19, 2001. The opposition had to get Reyes out by hook or by crook, out of revenge.

One thing that can be said about Reyes, whom I knew from his days in civil-military relations, is that he is one of the most articulate and intellectual officers to come out of the armed forces. His fluency and articulateness in English were always welcome in a service so badly wanting of articulate and coherent people, and it enabled him to ably represent the country abroad. Reyes set a style to doing things, but more than that, he had a good intellectual grasp of problems bedeviling the military, and we in the media had very fruitful exchanges with him. Pity that few understood him.

* * *

As to the idea of former President Fidel Ramos as new defense secretary, I tested this at Speaker Jose de Venecia's welcome lunch for the visiting chair of the standing committee of the Chinese People's Congress of China, Wu Bangguo, and everyone felt it would be excellent. As JDV said, FVR is Asia's top soldier-statesman; in addition, he is acceptable to the broad spectrum of the military which holds him in high esteem. Appointing him would also boost investors' confidence. It might be a big sacrifice on his part, considering he's moving to a "lower" position, but as they say, "*grandes males, grandes remedios.*"

* * *

Is Ignacio Arroyo actually Jose Pidal, or is he just the "fall guy" for brother Mike A? No one knows for sure yet, but no one would bet Ignacio isn't Jose P either. By Tuesday, the man claiming to be Jose P will surface in the Senate hearings. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who thinks Ignacio is the fall guy, says one sure way to find out is whether he knows of the bank accounts and which banks contain them. But Lacson might be in for a surprise: if Ignacio is Jose P, for sure he would know those bank accounts. At any rate, if he's just a fall guy, it couldn't be a more perfect script. Ignacio is completely trusted by Mike A and as a private individual he will take the heat off Mike and GMA. At worst, he could run into trouble with the BIR, but in this score, who will cast the first stone? Lacson himself has allegedly over a million dollars in US banks, and he isn't (supposed to be) as rich as Ignacio.

* * *

Last Saturday evening, many people were glued to the TV to watch Ramon Tulfo's exposé on Lacson. Tulfo has been writing about the alleged "sins" of Lacson for years in his hard-hitting column, but what made his "Isumbong Mo kay Tulfo" exposé over RPN-9 different was that the TV audience heard them straight from the lips of Sgt. Francisco "Kit" Mateo a long-time henchman of Lacson dating back to the Marcos-era Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group under the late Col. Rolando Abadilla, and later the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission. What made his testimony more significant was that he made it as he lay dying of cancer in October 2000, just before Estrada's impeachment trial (he died three weeks later). Tulfo said that ABS-CBN reporter, Anna Marie Fuderanan, made that incredible interview, but refused to air Mateo's confession after she received death threats.

It took nearly three years before that confession could be aired, but the pressure to suppress it was understandable. For hit-man Mateo spoke of several murders he and his colleagues carried out allegedly on their boss' orders; the sordid details included how a Lacson man allegedly ran over with a 10-wheeler truck the police sergeant who was once the husband of the woman now known as Lacson's wife, the former Alice de Perio; and how another Lacson man jettisoned out of a flying helicopter a woman and her 8-year-old niece because they refused to disclose the whereabouts of a relative, the notorious Red Scorpion leader Joey de Leon. A subsequent episode showed the culprit confessing to Mateo how he couldn't sleep for many days over his having pushed the little girl out. Each tale was reenacted on TV in Filipino, so its impact was doubly powerful.

* * *

Mateo's horror tales could be viewed as the ultimate *paninira* on Lacson. The question is: are these credible, given the highly charged political climate and the efforts to paper over Lacson's exposés on Mike A? On the other hand, it involved the confessions of a dying man who just wanted to make peace with his God and right himself by his fellowmen by telling what he knew about Lacson. It's hard for people to see how a dying man asking for God's forgiveness could make up those sordid tales. Mateo's confessions would be most damaging to Lacson as they bolster the public perception that he has a dark and sordid past, reinforced by the Senate hearings on his alleged illegal drugs and kidnap-for-ransom activities and the Kuratong Baleleng case.

* * *

Before he died, Mateo supposedly recanted his testimony and his family left for the United States. Lacson's camp would doubtless capitalize on that recantation, but the fact remains that this testimony was made by a dying man who had little to gain from lying to his God.

Dodie Lacuna of RPN-9 carefully stressed that Lacson would have every chance to rebut the Mateo exposé and Tulfo challenged him to use his very own program. Lacson should grab that offer for the sake of his candidacy.

Mutiny and resignations: Davao circa 1909

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

WITH DEEP regrets was how President Macapagal-Arroyo described her acceptance of the resignation of Secretary Angelo Reyès. But apparently, especially for those who suffered the brutal effects of the "total war" under his widely perceived hawkish watch—as the Armed Forces chief of staff during the Estrada regime, then as defense chief under the present administration—his departure is a relief.

While a lot of unanswered questions linger on his culpability in the "dirty wars" in Mindanao, his resignation is believed to augur well for the peace process that is yet to be resumed.

What has befallen Reyes after the Oakwood incident (rebellion, failed power grab or just take your pick) calls into mind the 1909 mutiny of the Philippine Constabulary in Davao, which is told in the recently released book, "Davao 1890-1910: Conquest and Resistance in the Garden of the Gods," written by Ateneo de Davao professor and Palanca awardee Dr. Macariu D. Tiu.

By reading Tiu's account on the Davao mutiny, the reader is left with a sense of déjà vu, about history repeating itself. Indeed, if one gets to compare it with the Oakwood mutiny, it was as if only the names of people, places and certain circumstances have changed. But the substance and the causes, although occurring a century apart, remain unchanged.

The Davao mutiny took place on the night of June 6, 1909. Led by a certain Sgt. Manuel Rodriguez (a junior officer!), 23 soldiers belonging to the Company B of the Philippine Constabulary mutinied against their "abusive" American officers.

At that time, the still undivided Davao had a total of 118 PC soldiers grouped into two companies. These mutineers, who were derisively described by an American officer as "of a rather low order of intelligence," held their ground for a month, transferring from one Davao area to another. Eerily, Tiu notes, the mutiny started on the third death anniversary of District Governor Edward C. Bolton, who was assassinated on June 6, 1906 in Malalag (now part of Davao del Sur) by a Tagacaolo tribal leader named Mangulayon.

Continues Tiu: "When Governor Walker heard the shots, he went to investigate. He found the troops had left the barracks and he went to the house of Lt. De Balaine. The two met one of the groups of mutineers at San Pedro Street... and the Governor ordered them to drop their guns... The leader Rodriguez commanded: "Kill the —!" and the troops fired at the officers.

Had the mutineers made their mark, Walker would have been the third district governor killed in Davao."

While the Magdalo mutineers occupied a premiere hotel, the Davao mutineers tried to occupy and overrun the San Pedro Cathedral Convent where the surprised American officers retreated and made their defense. Unable to storm the convent, the mutineers withdrew by 8:30 p.m., looting some stores on their way out of town, just like how the Magdalo soldiers "ransacked" the Glorietta Mall for foodstuffs and other materials.

As of July 10, 1909, "most of the mutineers were all accounted for except for five who were still at large." Four of the mutineers were also killed; five surrendered and nine were captured.

What particularly shocked the Davao Americans, Tiu notes, was the fact that the residents of Davao helped the mutineers. Some of these residents were even members of the local elite. And, as in the aftermath of Oakwood, the press and the politicians suspected by the Americans as sympathetic to the mutineers also got their own beating.

The Mindanao Herald, a widely circulated newspaper then, echoed the American sentiments in this manner: "We don't blame the native agitator for what nature has peculiarly fitted them, but we do blame the government for permitting a lot of native jackasses to breed sedition in the minds of ignorant people. It is time to clean up... the atmosphere created by the native press and by certain native politicians is not calculated to inspire the highest confidence in the native troops. We can't very consistently put guns into the hands of men while we permit a lot of hair-brained (*sic*) hoodlums to stand around spitting betel nut juice at American authority."

When the mutiny was quelled, investigations followed.

"Investigations tended to explain away the mutiny as a reaction to the strict discipline imposed by (officers) Goicouria and De Balaine who were Spanish officers integrated into the PC. There was supposed to be nothing political about the whole uprising. If so, it did not explain why the mutineers specifically targeted the Americans at the convent. At any rate, the mutiny shattered the myth of a peaceful and orderly Davao and for a while destabilized the situation with three rapid turnover of district governors."

Because Walker was severely criticized for "running away" at the height of the mutiny, he resigned two months after. This is another instance where the outcome of the Magdalo and the Davao mutinies again share historic similarities.

The frustrations blurted out by Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV were apparently felt, too, by Sergeant Rodriguez. "When the mutiny failed, the townspeople professed allegiance again to the Americans by denying they gave assistance to the mutineers. They made the Americans believe that they, the townspeople, were also targets of the mutineers!"

As it was, so it is now. And so will it be in the future?

(Dr. Tiu's book is available at the Ateneo de Davao bookstore 082-2212411 local 8334.)

* * *

Comments to karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com.

Davide should resign to save the judiciary

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

SUCCESS, as in Edsa II, is what grants legitimacy to a coup; failure, as in Oakwood, makes it just another putsch.

This bit of *realpolitik* was on the Inquirer's front page two weeks ago, in an Amando Doronila analysis of both events. Regarded as the most authoritative chronicler of Edsa II, Doronila pictured the young military mutineers of Gringo Honasan and Antonio Trillanes IV as bungling coup plotters with messianic complexes who could not organize a proper civilian and political component for their military misadventure. On the other hand, he defended the part played by then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes in the Edsa II "people power" and called any comparison with the Oakwood mutiny "insipid."

Yet in his book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada," Doronila quotes Reyes speaking to his staff at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19, 2001—after he decided that the AFP would withdraw its support for President Joseph Estrada as a monolith—"Gentlemen, I'm sure you know that we've just committed mutiny."

At 4:30 p.m. that same day, the military high command, led by Reyes, walked up the stage of the Edsa Shrine and, to thunderous ovation, defected to the civilian and political component of Edsa II. (It is interesting to note that soon after TV broadcasts of Reyes at Edsa, even Chief of Police Ping Lacson called Malacañang to say the police would not fight the military for Estrada and asked him to leave "for the sake of peace.")

At that point, the threat of violence to force Estrada out was clear. On the very next day, Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001, Chief Justice Hilario Davide swore in Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after Jaime Cardinal Sin told her not to give Estrada a five-day grace period. Gloria had already been assured by Justice Artemio Panganiban that the Chief Justice was willing to swear her in at noon even if Estrada had not yet resigned. Just send a letter. While waiting, the justices had a "fierce debate over the constitutionality" of swearing her in. At 11:24 a.m. her letter arrived claiming Estrada was permanently disabled. Davide prevailed on the Court to accept the falsehood that the presidency was at that moment vacant by virtue of permanent disability. He asked, "Isn't it better that the Court should act?" By 12:30 p.m. the Court had joined the military, the Church and civil society at the Edsa Shrine and Gloria was sworn in.

We do not know what the justices actually talked about before they went to Edsa. Part of the heated discussion was over something called "the dark side of people power" that Davide and Cardinal Sin had been obsessed about. They worried that violence was sure to follow. Where would "people power" be if Estrada left the Palace horizontally? It was this argument that silenced the justices objecting to a towering act of judicial activism.

If Reyes represented the military component of Edsa II, the Supreme Court was surely its intellectual component responsible for coming up with a formula for presidential removal and replacement that was non-violent and could be given legitimacy by the high court in later rulings. The insistence that Edsa II upheld the Constitution in every detail just shows that the idea for Gloria's letter came from Davide and Panganiban themselves. In other words, they were active participants in and instigators of those events, not impartial, coldly neutral judges.

As the truth of this accusation (from two bit commentators like me) becomes manifest to anyone examining the record, the judiciary will come under intellectual and political attack much as the military has. That is because both institutions stepped out of line at Edsa II, and destroyed the integrity of their legitimate role within our polity. One awful consequence of this is that the Supreme Court cannot possibly try Estrada with even a shred of impartiality because Chief Justice Davide and the Supreme Court justices who went to Edsa are evidently guilty of culpable violations of their oath to uphold the Constitution when they designed and engineered that swearing in.

Davide would do well to consider Reyes' example. He should study the events of 1987—the last time the Supreme Court cleansed itself, by a voluntary purge, in order to save the judiciary.

I asked AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya about soldiers participating in political affairs and movements. He said it was the strict policy of the AFP that the military obeys civilian authority and that soldiers are not allowed to participate in partisan political activities, certainly not to "demonstrate" with their arms and ammunition as part of their uniform.

This is ironic. The enemies of democracy do practically nothing but politics. They spread highly sophisticated propaganda to extend their evil influence in the media, academe and society at large. For example, largely through their efforts and those of their political and ideological allies, the leftists have successfully made Filipinos think that terrorism is just an American fiction, invented as an excuse to exercise superpower hegemony over hapless semi-colonial vassal states like the Philippines.

That is why two years after President Macapagal promised our allies we would pass an anti-terrorism legislation, we do not yet have an anti-terrorism bill. Doesn't Joe de Venecia have anything to do but plot the mutation of the Constitution?

(Visit my personal web log at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)

Obituary for man's best friend

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

WHEN a dog bites a person, very few people take notice. But when a person bites a dog, it's considered newsworthy. The same principle seems to apply if a dog is the subject of an obituary.

Last Aug. 7, the Inquirer published a notice on its Obituary section about the passing away of a canine named Dumb-Dumb. It was a first for the newspaper, so the advertising staff discussed the obituary before it allowed its publication.

I didn't realize the obituary would elicit varied reactions from the readers. Quite a number sent me letters and e-mails questioning its propriety. When a friend whom I haven't seen for quite some time asked me about it last week, I thought it would make a good subject for today's column.

For those who may have missed the obituary, here's how it reads:

In Loving Memory
Of
DUMB-DUMB
January 29, 1995 - August 3, 2003
Our beloved dog, trusted companion & best friend
who will be sorrowly missed, now peacefully at rest
in the Infinite Grace of our Lord
(August 3, 2003, 9:20 p.m.)

This information was followed by a list of what looked like the initials of the dog's parents, siblings, grandparents, uncles and aunts and cousins. The obituary was no different in style and appearance from the form used for deceased human beings.

Hidden message

A reader, who introduced herself as a nurse, criticized the Inquirer for putting the notice in a section reserved for dead people. She expressed concern that it may have hurt the feelings of the relatives of the deceased whose obituaries appeared on the same day. She said that if a similar notice is requested in the future, the newspaper should put it elsewhere and not on the obituary section.

"That must have been a secret code by some drug dealers or crime syndicates," another reader commented. He suspects the initials represented the people tasked with the delivery or to whom certain payments have to be remitted. The distraught reader warned the Inquirer against being used unwittingly as a message center by some criminal elements.

Since the obituary came out shortly after the July 27 Oakwood incident, a teacher thinks it is a coded message from the brains of the mutiny to their followers in areas outside of Metro Manila. He believes no person in his right mind would spend money to announce the death of a dog. Ergo, there's more than meets the eye in that unusual advertisement.

Another hazarded the guess that the obituary came from a girl who just had a traumatic break-up with her boyfriend. The word "dumb-dumb" must have been a word familiar to both of them that bore some odious connotations. The years of existence of the dog probably refers to the period of their relationship. Perhaps, the notice was her way of saying she considered him dead for all intents and purposes.

These comments gave me the impression that some readers of the Inquirer have rather fertile imagination, with the uncanny ability to find hidden meanings behind otherwise ordinary looking words and phrases and photos.

Verification

Initially, I thought there was some grain of truth to the suggestion that the obituary was a secret message for an illegal act. It struck me as odd for somebody to spend P8,000 just to announce the demise of a dog. That money could have been used for more productive purposes.

But why a dog obituary and not another form of notice? Assuming the worst of things, the advertiser could have placed instead an advertisement for a house, automobile or some expensive gadget. It would look ordinary and not invite attention, except perhaps for its intended audience. And it would even have cost less.

Well, for those who expressed some apprehension about that obituary, there is no reason to be worried. My inquiries with the advertising staff show that the person who placed and paid for it was not in the league of the infamous Jose Velarde or somebody who had some nasty ideas in mind.

The day before the obituary came out, a member of the advertising staff checked the records of Dumb-Dumb to verify its existence and demise. She could not ask the advertiser to submit a copy of the death certificate that the newspaper requires from people who want to put out death announcements.

The civil registrar does not issue that kind of certificate. And no veterinarian would be willing to come out with that kind of attestation because that's not part of his duties and responsibilities. He may find himself in hot water with the Professional Regulations Commission or, worse, as one veterinarian said, be the butt of jokes by his peers for "usurpation of authority to issue death certificates"!

Investigation

The investigative trail led the advertising supervisor to the veterinary clinic that used to attend to Dumb-Dumb's maintenance needs. A clinic attendant (who goes by the name of Mercy Clemente) said Dumb-Dumb, a Boxer, had been under her care for seven years and was diagnosed to be suffering from cancer several months before it expired.

So why the name Dumb-Dumb? Because the dog was deaf and mute. As a result of these disabilities, it did not know how to bark or engage in activities usually expected of dogs. The attendant explained that in spite of its physical shortcomings, Dumb-Dumb was well loved by its master. No expense was spared to make sure it got the best veterinary care and treatment available.

The owner must have been so devoted to Dumb-Dumb that he even put out an obituary to announce its transition from this world. (Who was it who said that all dogs go to heaven?) Whether the owner had intentions other than show his love for Dumb-Dumb in spending good money for its death notice is a big question mark.

But I prefer to resolve the doubt in his favor. I think the notice was an act of love, not a secret code of sorts or a manifestation of hurt feelings by a scorned woman.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Wealth earned through blood, sweat and tears

MY name appeared in your newspaper as one of the so-called "lowly paid millionaires" with unexplained wealth, giving readers a negative impression of this person. I was listed as the second wealthiest in the Department of Public Works and Highways with P10.6 million in assets and liabilities and P9.8 million net worth, to be specific.

The figures are correct but I would like to add the following information for our newspaper readers. Prior to my designation as a public works district engineer, my wife and I worked with the United Nations; I for two years as UN specialist in the Syrian Arab Republic and as International Labor Organization (ILO) expert engineer in Mozambique, Africa. My wife, Evelyn Tupas-Barroso, was assigned as UN specialist in the Syrian Arab Republic from 1979-1981. Again, she was engaged as UN expert and chief technical adviser posted in Malawi, Africa from 1989-1995. She was hired as short-term consultant by the UNDP-UNCDF in 1997.

Such "wealth" was therefore earned through our blood, sweat and tears, figuratively and literally, with a lot of physical and emotional sacrifices—three years spent away from our three children—just to ensure a better future for them. The savings we made during our United Nations tenure between 1979 and 1997 were invested mostly on real properties as listed in our Sworn Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of Dec. 31, 2002.

We most welcome the lifestyle check on us as public officials for this is indeed one way of attaining the national goal of a new and strong republic. We are, however, advancing this vital information for fear of pre-judgment by our readers who don't really know us personally.

—RUBEN M. BARROSO,
district engineer,
Bukidnon First Engineering
District, Malaybalay City

Stop 'babying' smokers

SMOKING, active or passive, is against one's health. This cannot be overemphasized. Accommodating the smoking habits of tourists visiting the Philippines would actually impact negatively on our economy and quality of life.

A person who gets sick because of smoking means additional expense for the government if he/she goes to a public health institution, or for him personally if he/she can afford the services of a private physician.

Designating a "smokers' area" inside buildings would be useless because the nicotine or whatever toxic materials there are in the cigarette or tobacco would still get into the air, infecting the lungs of people around, including non-smokers.

Instead of "babying" the "harassed smokers," Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon should show firmness in implementing government laws, rules and regulations against public smoking.

—MENJ MENDIOLA,
P. O. Box 812163, Los Angeles,
California, USA 90081

Crumbling republic

THE MUCH ballyhooed strong republic is turning into nothing but empty rhetoric. It can be seen in the burning issues of the day and how the Macapagal administration has responded or is attending to them. First is the July 27 mutiny. Though it was swiftly resolved, the legitimate grievances raised by the young rebels have not been addressed. The only thing done so far was to conduct a slew of investigations and undertake a demolition job on the character of the young officers and their perceived backers. Instead of listening to the young officers, the government just washed its hands of the issues and demonized the messengers. If the government continues to ignore the soldiers' grievances, it would not be surprising if a full-blown coup erupts.

Second, President Macapagal-Arroyo's display of her infamous temper toward TV journalist Tina Panganiban-Perez in front of more than a hundred people. Ms Macapagal accused Perez of "abetting rebellion" and said that she is under surveillance. The incident is reminiscent of Erap's crackdown on The Manila Times and the INQUIRER. Now, conscious of the implications of what she did, Ms Macapagal and her stooges scurried to patch up the mess, even sending roses to Perez.

Third, the charges brought against Mike Arroyo by Sen. Panfilo Lacson are once again being stonewalled by Malacañang. This is only the most recent of a long list of cases brought against the administration. Cases like the Impsa deal, the slot machines, the rice smuggling and the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard scam, all have been buried because of the President's influence.

One thing is evident in the manner Ms Macapagal handled all these issues—her dictatorial tendencies come to the fore when she is put on the spot.

What is really alarming is that feeling its back against the wall, the regime is now actively pushing for the passing of the Anti-Terrorism bill, which is patently worse than martial law and an extremely formidable weapon for a reelectionist wannabe with only a crumbling republic to speak of.

—ASHLEY DY,
chair, National Network
of Agrarian Reform Advocates-
Youth Sector,
17-D Kasing-kasing St., QC

Transparent Cabinet needed

IT is not surprising that the members of Presiden Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet are certified millionaires (PDI, 8/22/03). Cabinet members are supposedly intelligent people, the cream of the crop and known for their exceptional abilities in their respective fields, whether as employees or as business entrepreneurs. Quite naturally, intelligence and success should but beget wealth! Moreover, nowadays one needs only to own a house and lot anywhere in the metropolis, plus probably a car, to be considered a millionaire, at least asset-wise. After all, that is what the statements of assets and liabilities that government officials annually submit essentially tell. There is nothing wrong, therefore, with the fact that our Cabinet members are mostly millionaires.

One other matter bothers me, however. Existing regulations require that one must not have an existing interest in any business enterprise or, if any, he must first divest himself from it, before assuming a Cabinet position. For this purpose, "divestment" connotes a complete and total sale, not merely a paper transfer of one's business ownership or interest to his wife, son, daughter or relative. Otherwise, the whole exercise becomes futile. As it is definitely not an easy thing to sell one's business holdings overnight, and since not a few of our incumbent Cabinet members are known to have owned certain business ventures before they joined the government, I am worried that this elementary requirement is not being fully complied with. Far more than what the much ballyhooed SAL provides, it is certainly in this respect that the public should be entitled to transparency as far as members of the Cabinet are concerned.

—RUDY L. CORONEL,
10 Venus St., Golden Country
Homes, Alangilan, Batangas City

Raise in SSS pensions sought

AS far as I can recall, the Social Security System, which was founded in 1957, turns 46 years old today.

In the past, the SSS would announce upward adjustments, usually 10 percent, on its pensions every anniversary.

President Cory Aquino never failed to give the SSS retirees yearly pension adjustments. In fact, there was a year during her incumbency when SSS retirees got two pension adjustments.

During President Fidel Ramos' time, the yearly 10 percent adjustment in pension was reduced to 5 percent and 8 percent in 1994 and 1997, respectively. No adjustment was given in 1995. In two years of the Estrada presidency, the usual 10 percent was reinstituted.

When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over from Estrada, many had hoped that our economy would improve under her administration because she is an economist. Unfortunately, no adjustment in SSS pensions has been given in the more than two years she has been in office.

Increases in SSS retirement pensions are granted either on May 1, Labor Day, or on Sept. 1, the SSS anniversary. May we therefore look forward for an adjustment in SSS pensions in this year's anniversary, the first under the Macapagal administration?

—FACUNDO S. TALLO,
182 Lot 6, Northwest St.,
Angelo Village, Talon,
Las Piñas City

Inhumane SSS policy

LAST Aug. 14, 2003, while still recuperating from my recent heart bypass operation, I personally filed my "disability claim" with the Social Security System at its Alabang, Muntinlupa City branch.

To my surprise and disappointment, the SSS refused to accept and process my application, with an explanation that, by force of an existing policy, post-surgery disability claims are only processed four months after the operation. I cannot understand the reason behind this policy.

Is the SSS running short of cash and had to issue this inhumane policy to delay payment of benefits to members who need immediate compensation?

—WILFREDO T. MARTIN,
15405 Sta. Ana St.,
San Agustin Village,
Moonwalk, Parañaque City

Kudos to DTI

I READ about this Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) project called PCPS or Personal Computers for Public Schools, and I must say that it's about time that the government finally take the initiative in projects such as this.

The distribution of almost 20,000 computers to public schools nationwide definitely happens "once in a blue moon" and the DTI, though not the lead agency greatly expected to come up with this project, must be commended for its efforts somehow.

The project may not automatically close the technological gap between public and private schools overnight but I believe that if efforts for this project are sustained, then the project could spell something good for the country in the long run.

—AURALYNNE JAMAICA ROBLEZ,
student, Computer Science,
AMA Computer School, Cavite City

Erratum

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in April 1957, not in 1947, the year pointed out in our editorial "Outstanding Asians" last Aug. 30, 2003. Our sincerest apologies.—Ed.

Nagkakaisang Manggagawa sa La Suerte
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Km. 14 South Super Highway, Parañaque City 1700
Tel No. 823 8121 - 30

Agosto 27, 2003

Kagalang-galang Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas
Malacañang, Manila

Mahal na Pangulo:

Kami po ay mga manggagawa sa La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory na kasapi sa tatlong unyon na ang bilang ay halos isang libo. Napag-alaman po namin na ang dalawang sigarilyong aming ginagawa sa kasalukuyan — ang ASTRO at MEMPHIS — ay na-reclassify ng Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) sa mas mataas na antas.

Kami po ay sang-ayon sa inyong mga programa upang iangat ang ekonomiya ng ating bansa at mapataas ang koleksiyon sa buwis. Napakaganda po ng inyong programa, mahal na Pangulo subali't kami po ay nangangamba at nalulungkot sa ginawa ng BIR sa natitira naming dadalawang brands ng sigarilyo. Pinaghirapan po namin ang pagiigi ng kalidad ng aming mga "local brands" upang makayanan ng La Suerte Management na matustusan ang aming mga pangangailangan. Pinilit po naming palakasin ang aming "local brands" dahil ito lang po ang inaasahan naming lahat. Hindi po nagbawas ng manggagawa dito sa kompanya kahit na po wala na sa amin ang mga sigarilyong "Marlboro" at "Philip Morris" mula pa noong buwan ng Enero ng taong ito. Sa ginawa po ng BIR, siguradong maaapektuhan po kaming mga manggagawa na umaasa lang sa aming suweldo. Bababa po ang "volume" ng aming "sales" ng walang duda dahil kakailanganin na itaas na rin ang presyo ng aming sigarilyo. Ito po ay nangyari na nuon. Ang isa po naming "cigarette brand" na FORBES ay na-reclassify at napakarami po sa mga kasama namin ang nawalan ng trabaho. Hindi na po sila nakahanap pa ng ibang trabaho sapagka't 80% po ng mga manggagawa sa La Suerte ay halos may mga edad na. Mabuti na lamang po ay nasa amin pa ang "Marlboro" at "Philip Morris" nuon kaya kumita pa rin po kami kahit medyo may kahirapan.

Napag-alaman din po namin, mahal na Pangulo na kung ang ASTRO at MEMPHIS ay tuloy na mai-reclassify ng antas, ang presyo po nitong aming produkto ay tataas mula P8.00 bawa't kaha ng P12.50. Malamang po ang aming produkto ay lubusang humina at mawala sa merkado na ang ultimong resulta ay pagkawala ng aming mga trabaho na siya lamang aming pinagkukunan ng kikitain para sa mga pamilya namin.

Sa kasalukuyan po, mahal na Pangulo dito sa ating bansa kapag lumagpas na po ng 25 anyos, napakahirap na pong makahanap ng ibang trabaho. Milagro na po kung ito ay mangyari. Wala na rin pong tatanggap sa amin upang makapagtrabaho sa ibang bansa dahil - may edad na po ang karamihan sa amin. Sana po ay inyong maunawaan ang aming mga magiging kalagayan. Kami po ay kumakatok sa inyong ginintuang puso mahal na Pangulo na tulungan po naman ninyo kami na huwag mangyari ang aming kinatatakutan — ang mawalan ng trabaho. Ayaw po namin na magdagdag pabigat pa sa inyong mga suliranin.

Mas mabuti po na ang pagtuunan ng pansin at pag-ibayuhin ng BIR ay ang maging "efficient" sa pagkolekta ng buwis. At isa pa po, kung kailangan talagang i-reclassify ang mga "brands" ng sigarilyo, bakit po hindi lahat ng "brands"ng sigarilyo ang dapat naapektuhan? Mayroon lamang pong pinili. Tama po ba ito? Sana po ay hindi ninyo ituring na kalabisan o pagkawalang-galang namin sa inyo kung imungkahi namin na ma-"hold" po ninyo ang pagpapatupad ng re-classification sa aming "brands" na sa Setyembre 1, 2003 na sisimulan. Sa ganuon po ay makita ninyo ang iba pang mga "brands" na dapat maisama sa re-classification.

Ngayon pa lang po, kaming lahat ay lubusang nagpapasalamat sa inyo mahal na Pangulo sa magiging desisyon ninyo. Kami pong lahat ay nasa inyong likuran na sumusuporta sa inyong Administrasyon. Pagpalain po kayo, sampu ng inyong mga pamilya at kasama na nawa ay lumawig pa ang inyong panunungkulan sa ikasusulong ng ating bansa.

Muli po kaming nagpapasalamat sa inyo and more power po!

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DANILO M. HERNANDEZ
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La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory
Supervisors' Union

ADVT

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Baathist-al-Qaida alliance seen in Iraq mosque blast

IRAQI women cry during prayers commemorating slain leading moderate Muslim Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim at a mosque in Baghdad August 30.

REUTERS

NAJAF, Iraq—Four men, two Iraqis and two Saudis, thought to have links with Saddam Hussein and the al-Qaida terror network, were being held Saturday over the assassination of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim.

The suspects were detained by police in Najaf soon after Friday's car bombing in the Shiite holy city that killed Hakim along with 82 other people and wounded 125 more.

"Two are Iraqis from Basra, who belonged to the former regime, while the other two are Arab Wahhabis," Najaf Gov. Haidar Mehdi Matar told AFP. "They confessed to the bombing."

Wahhabism, a rigorous version of Islam forged in Saudi Arabia, is a byword for those subscribing to the puritanical vision of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

A spokesperson for Hakim's party, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), later said the two Arabs were Saudis and described all four as al-Qaida agents.

If the story proves to be true, it would bear out what is seen in Washington as a nightmare scenario where al-Qaida forged an alliance with Baathists to send US troops packing.

Hakim's death also tested Iraq's experiment in representative government as Mohammad Bahr al-Uloom, an 80-year-old Shiite dignitary on Iraq's Governing Council, announced he was suspending his membership of the interim body in protest of the lack of security around his religion's holy shrines.

"This indifference prompts me to suspend my membership of the Governing Council, which was unable to assume its responsibility of ensuring that coalition forces protect our people, holy sites and religious authorities," Bahr al-Uloom said in a statement obtained by AFP.

The US-led coalition donated $200,000 dollars and pledged a $2-million reconstruction fund for Najaf following the blast, in response to scathing criticism from the country's 15 million-odd Shiites.

More details were meanwhile emerging about the deadly attack that came minutes after Hakim, who was the leader of Iraq's main Shiite political party, finished a sermon at the Tomb of Imam Ali, one of Shiite Islam's most revered sites.

Matar said two cars packed with some 700 kilograms of dynamite, hand grenades and mortars were used in the bombing in Najaf, 180 km south of Baghdad.

The attack came as Iraq was still reeling from the bombings in Baghdad of the UN headquarters on Aug. 9 and Jordanian Embassy earlier in the month.

A UN spokesperson, Veronique Taveau, said the UN was weighing a "serious reduction of staff," in light of the volatile situation.

The UN staff has already shrunk from 300 foreign nationals to 150 in the aftermath of the HQ's bombing, which claimed the life of top UN envoy in Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Friday's bombing was the world's deadliest terror attack since last fall's Bali blast. *AFP*

$22.5-B US-Boeing deal called a 'military-industrial rip-off'

WASHINGTON—Dozens of e-mail exchanges among Boeing Co. the Air Force and the Pentagon released on Saturday raised fresh questions about a controversial $22.5-billion deal to lease, then buy 100 Boeing 767 tankers.

The documents were among over 8,000 provided to the Senate Commerce Committee as it investigated a deal its chair, Sen. John McCain, describes as a "military-industrial rip-off" and a government bailout of Boeing, whose commercial aircraft sales slumped after the September 2001 hijack attacks.

The documents contain no "smoking guns," congressional sources say, but they show a close relationship between Boeing and Air Force officials, including Air Force Secretary James Roche, as well as details of a rival bid by Airbus SA.

For instance, on Feb. 19, 2002, Gerald Daniels, then head of Boeing's military aircraft and missile systems, told Chair Phil Condit he had "excellent discussions" with Roche and his chief of staff, Gen. John Jumper a week earlier.

"Question is the terms of the deal, not if there will be a deal ... All are willing to fight for this," Daniels wrote.

In other memos, Boeing officials say Air Force officials gave them details of the size and price of the Airbus 330 bid.

Boeing has denied receiving any proprietary information from the Air Force. Air Force acquisitions chief Marvin Sambur said he did not believe the Air Force had improperly shared any proprietary data with Boeing but said it would take appropriate actions if that proved to be the case.

McCain's aides released the documents just days before the Senate commerce, budget and armed services committees are due to review the deal and before a possible vote on the deal by the Senate Armed Services Committee as early as Thursday.

That vote is the last hurdle facing the deal, under which the Air Force will lease 100 Boeing 767s from a nonprofit trust for six years, with the chance to buy them for an additional $4.4 billion at the end of the lease period. *Reuters*

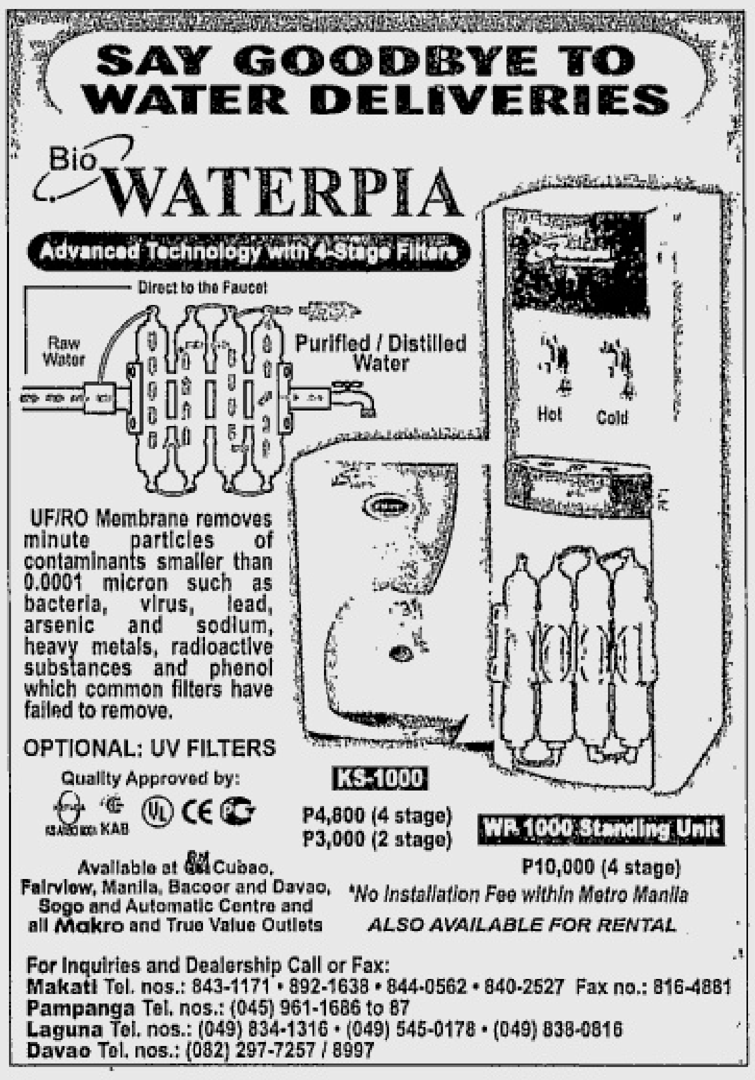
Russia mourns sub deaths

MOSCOW—Russian authorities declared a day of mourning Sunday following the sinking of a nuclear submarine that left nine seamen dead.

Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov ordered the day of mourning in the Northern Fleet and sailed to the site in the Barents Sea, where a K-159 nuclear submarine sank early Saturday while being towed to a shipyard for scrapping.

The submarine, whose nuclear reactor was reported to have been neutralized, sank during a storm off Kildin island while being towed to a shipyard at Polyarni, on the Kola Peninsula.

The accident revived memories of the sinking of the Kursk nuclear submarine three years ago, killing all 118 crew members, after a fuel leak from a torpedo caused an explosion. *AFP*



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Cheers, dismay greet WTO deal on cheap drugs for poor nations

GENEVA—The World Trade Organization's long-fought deal Saturday to improve access to generic drugs for poor countries drew wide praise, but critics said the agreement could aggravate the plight of millions suffering from AIDS, malaria and other grave diseases.

Breaking an eight-month deadlock, the 146-member WTO approved changes to its intellectual property rights laws that will make it easier for poor countries to import generic prescription drugs if they are unable to manufacture them themselves.

"This is a historic agreement for the WTO," WTO director general Supachai Panitchpakdi said.

"The final piece of the jigsaw has fallen into place allowing poorer countries to make full use of the flexibilities in the WTO's intellectual property rules in order to deal with the diseases that ravage their people.

"It proves once and for all that the organization can handle humanitarian as well as trade concerns."

Kenya's ambassador to the WTO Amina Chawahir Mohamed declared: "It's good news for Africa, and especially good news for the people of Africa who so desperately need access to affordable medicine."

But a vocal Kenyan medical lobby warned the deal would make it impossible for them to manufacture generic drugs in the future.

"This deal will forever make it difficult for developing nations to promote their own pharmaceutical industries and manufacture generic drugs," Beryl Leach, of the Kenya Coalition for Access to Essential Medicines, told AFP in Nairobi.

Some international humanitarian organizations expressed doubt the agreement could deliver relief as promised.

"Today's WTO agreement that is ostensibly intended to get drugs to the poorest countries does not provide a workable solution," Oxfam and Medeçins Sans Frontieres said in a joint statement.

"Today's deal was designed to offer comfort to the US and the Western pharmaceutical industry. Unfortunately, it offers little comfort for poor patients. Global patent rules will continue to drive up the price of medicines," said Ellen T' Hoen of MSF.

"What (WTO) members do not seem to take into account is that the burdensome system being put in place does nothing to ensure that generic production will happen in the future," said Celine Charveriat of Oxfam. *AFP*

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09 Huang Yee Ling Concert 2003
10 Air Supply 2003 Greatest Hits Asia Tour
18-24 Yonex Sunrise Singapore Open
21-31 Ang Lee's The Wedding Banquet Musical
29-31 WOMAD 2003
22-31 Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations

September
1-14 Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations
5 Cuban Night with Vocal Sampling
5-7 Asian SuperCross Championship 2003
5-14 Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
18-21 Singapore Flower & Garden Show 2003
18-21 Singapore Orchid Festival

October
3-29 Deepavali Light-Up 2003
4-5 Streats Singapore International Latin Festival 2003
24-25 Marcel Marceau 80th Anniversary Tour
25-31 Hari Raya Light Up 2003
26 James Galway Concert

November
1-30 Hari Raya Light-Up 2003
13-16 Tiger Skins
15-23 7th Singapore River Buskers' Festival 2003
15-30 Christmas Light-Up 2003
16 The Great Singapore Duck Race 2003
29-30 21st Singapore River Regatta 2003
29 Swingle Singers 40th Anniversary Special
30 Bollywood Extravaganza

December
1-31 Christmas Light-Up 2003
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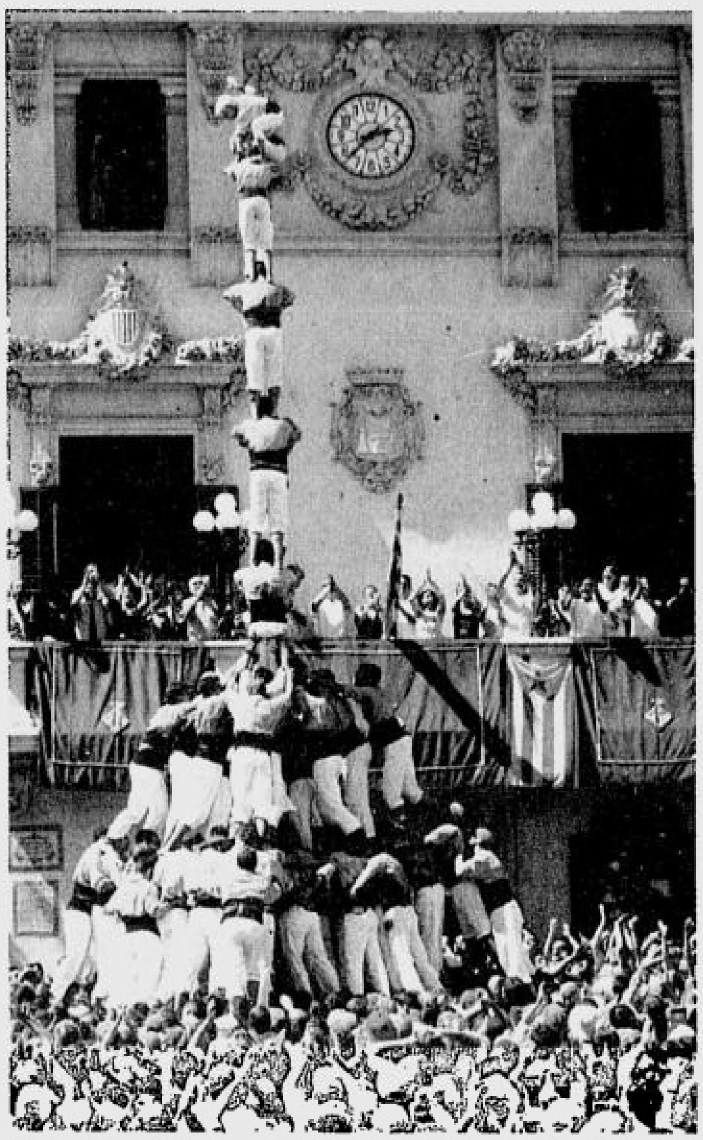

SQUIRMING TOWER
"La Colla de Vilafranca" setting the human tower record during the St. Felix Day celebrations Aug. 30, in Vilafranca, eastern Spain. AFP

Blaster worm suspect 'just a normal, fun-loving teen'

HOPKINS, Minn.—A friend of a Minnesota high school student charged with unleashing a new strain of the Blaster Internet worm that infected computers around the world described him on Saturday as "just a kid" who is likely innocent.

Mike Heldt, who once worked with suspect Jeffrey Lee Parson, 18, at a local movie theater, told Reuters he and Parson like to shoot billiards, rent movies, play video games and "just sit around and joke like other kids."

"I don't think he's really a hacker," said Heldt, an 18-year-old who works the overnight shift at a local gas station and lives in the same working-class neighborhood as Parson. "He's just a kid that got into something that's bigger than he is, that's all."

But computer security specialists, who are still searching for the creator of the worm, said altering a worm is not as hard as creating one.

"It was a very deliberate act," said Vincent Weafer, senior director of Symantec Security Response. "But it wasn't complex. It doesn't take a huge amount of knowledge."

According to court documents, the 6-foot-4, 145 kg Parson has admitted creating a variant of the Blaster, a self-replicating worm that bores through a Windows security hole, harnessing computers to launch concerted data attacks via the Internet on a Microsoft Corp. technical service website.

Microsoft, which says Blaster has caused millions of dollars of damage, helped authorities in the case.

Parson was arrested on Friday and charged with one count of intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to a computer. He faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine if convicted.

"This young man ... was very sophisticated in his understanding of computers," said U.S. Attorney Tom Heffelfinger of Minnesota. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Blood-selling AIDS scandal in China

BEIJING—China's AIDS scandal from unsafe blood collection, which has mainly affected central China, has claimed several lives in southwest China, a Chinese report said Sunday. Two of seven farmers from Chongqing municipality in southwestern China who were fooled into going to the central province of Henan to sell blood in 1994, have died this year after contracting AIDS, the Xinhua news agency website said. Three others are also believed to have died from AIDS, said Xinhua, which cited an investigative report by the Chongqing Morning Post. The Post quoted officials in Fuling district of Chongqing as saying that the two men who died this year came down with AIDS symptoms some eight years after they sold blood in Henan. One man died in January from the disease and the other, also confirmed to have the disease, hanged himself in August, the Chongqing report said. Three of the seven farmers died last year, but they were not confirmed to have died from AIDS as they did not seek hospital care, the report said. *AFP*

Libya holds France to sanctions vote

PARIS—Libya is ready to improve compensation for the families of those killed in a 1989 French airliner bombing if Paris backs the end of UN sanctions against Libya, an adviser to Tripoli told Reuters on Saturday. Saad Djebbar, a London-based lawyer who has worked with the Libyans over the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, said that an intervention by French President Jacques Chirac could break the deadlock. "I am sure that if President Chirac picked up the phone today and told Colonel Gadhafi that France would not veto the resolution, or better still that it would vote for the resolution, that this will pave the way for better conditions for the families," he told Reuters. Chirac telephoned Gadhafi last weekend to urge him to offer more cash, but a presidential spokesperson declined to say whether the French leader planned to make a second call. *Reuters*

2 militants killed in Israeli air strike

GAZA CITY—Two Hamas militants were killed in an Israeli helicopter attack in central Gaza on Saturday, the fifth such attack in nine days, as Israel increased pressure on the radical Islamist group to stop rocket attacks on Israeli targets. Saturday's attack came just hours after Israel officials vowed to pursue a harassment campaign against Hamas through incursions and targeted assassinations in order to put an end to the firing of the group's homemade Qassam rockets at Israeli targets. Palestinian medical and security sources said four Israeli missiles ploughed into a car carrying Abdullah Akel, 35, and Farid Mayat, both members of the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades. Two other people were injured in the strike, which took place on a road which runs between the neighboring al-Bureij and Nuseirat refugee camps, they said. *AFP*

33 killed in Afghan fighting

KABUL—US-backed Afghan forces have killed at least 33 militants in three days of fighting against suspected Taliban insurgents in southeastern Afghanistan, the US military said on Saturday as Afghan officials reported 20 more deaths. Afghan and US-led coalition forces have been engaged in a major operation against suspected Taliban and al-Qaida bases in the mountains of Daychopan district of Zabul province, 300 km southwest of Kabul. *AFP*

A13 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

Across the NATION

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Cops nab suspected bomber in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police detained a suspected bomber on Thursday but the arrest was made public only yesterday.

But Senior Supt. Jorge Aquisap, city police director, refused to identify the suspect saying they were still conducting follow-up operations.

In the past, suspected terrorists had plotted their operations in the city. The plot was uncovered when authorities seized a large cache of explosives in a village here last year.

The explosives were traced to Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, one of the main suspects in the Rizal Day bombing in Manila.

But relatives of Ustadz Abdul Rajis Jolka, a resident of Aleosan, North Cotabato, told reporters that police arrested him on bomb charges.

The relatives claimed that Jolka is an ordinary fish trader who went to the city's fish port to buy stocks.

Many people at the fish port could attest that the bag Jolka was carrying contained only clothes, they claimed.

Aquisap said his men recovered a blasting cap and several sachets of suspected shabu from Jolka.

The Southern Command based in Zamboanga raised the possibility of more bomb attacks in Mindanao last week after the arrest of two Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said the two suspects detailed that the terror plot would be carried out in October.

Aside from using the city as base for bombing plans, the Abu Sayyaf, on several occasions, also exploded bombs in General Santos City.

Kyamko said the threat from the bandit group was not empty because of several indications, among them, the seizure of at least three gallons of ammonium nitrate from suspected bandits during a clash in Western Mindanao last week.

Meanwhile, Kyamko said a three-hour clash between soldiers and armed men in Sipakit Complex in Zamboanga del Norte on Thursday led to the arrest of one of the suspects in the May 4 attack on Siocon town.

Domo Sagubay, a native of Siocon, was arrested after the military found his identification card and belongings in one of the bunkers the armed men abandoned in the Sipakit Complex during the intense firefight. *Aquiles Zonio and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

1 killed in grenade blast in Cebu airport

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Kathy Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A grenade exploded inside the radar building of the Air Transportation Office (ATO) inside the Mactan Cebu International Airport Compound on Saturday, killing an ATO employee.

The explosion was not related to any terrorism attempt at the airport, the country's main international gateway in the south, assured Airport manager Angelo Verdan.

"Our airport is safe. There is no terrorism involved here," Verdan said.

ATO technician Ceasar Simeon, 54, was alone inside one of the rooms of the radar building when the grenade exploded at about 2:15 p.m., police said.

Simeon died at 4:45 p.m. at the Mactan Community Hospital. He suffered several injuries in the right side of his body.

Verdan said airport policemen belonging to the 7th Police Center for Airport Security (PCAS) discounted the possibility that the grenade was lobbed at the building because it is located far from the perimeter fence.

The ATO radar compound is some 2.5 km away from the airport passenger terminal. But the building is located close to the approach of the airport's main runway.

Security at the airport was immediately tightened and its parameters secured to ensure continued safe airport operation.

Verdan said investigators were looking into three possible angles in the explosion—suicide, an accident or that somebody placed the grenade inside Simeon's room.

But Supt. Arturo Evangelista, PCAS chief, said they had ruled out suicide as possible angle because Simeon had asked to be taken to the hospital after the explosion.

Andres Singson and Elias Quirol, personnel of the MCIAA fire-crash team who responded to the scene, said Simeon kept telling them that he did not want to die.

Evangelista said he was more inclined to believe that the explosion was an accident because Simeon was the only person inside the room.

Evangelista said included in the investigation was how the grenade was brought inside the ATO building. Several live M-16 bullets were also found inside Simeon's office.

He said they found it strange that Simeon, a civilian employee, would own the grenade and the bullets.

The personnel of the Scene of the Crime Operation found several uniforms of the Philippine Air Force, including nameplates.

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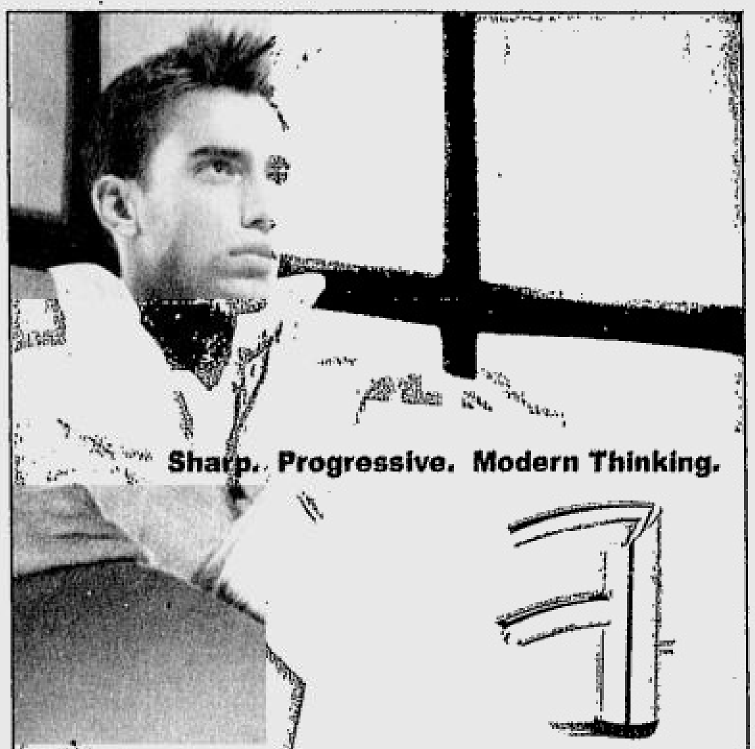

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Farmers urged to press SC on Marcos loot

SORSOGON CITY—Agrarian Reform Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan urged farmers and other sectors of the society to ask the Supreme Court to resolve quickly the issue of Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

Pagdanganan said most of the DAR projects rely on the release of the P38 billion Marcos' ill-gotten wealth recovered by the Philippine Commission on Good Government.

"We'll do what we can with the budget at hand, (but) we can't do much without the P38-billion ill-gotten wealth," Pagdanganan said.

The DAR chief attended on Wednesday the launching of Castilla, Casiguran and Sorsogon City as Kalahi Agrarian Reform (KAR) Zones.

Pagdanganan said DAR hopes to use its P28 or P30-billion share by October and asked the listeners "let's help each other."

Pagdanganan also presided over the oathtaking of the members of the Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee, which will serve as a watchdog against the possible misuse of the DAR share.

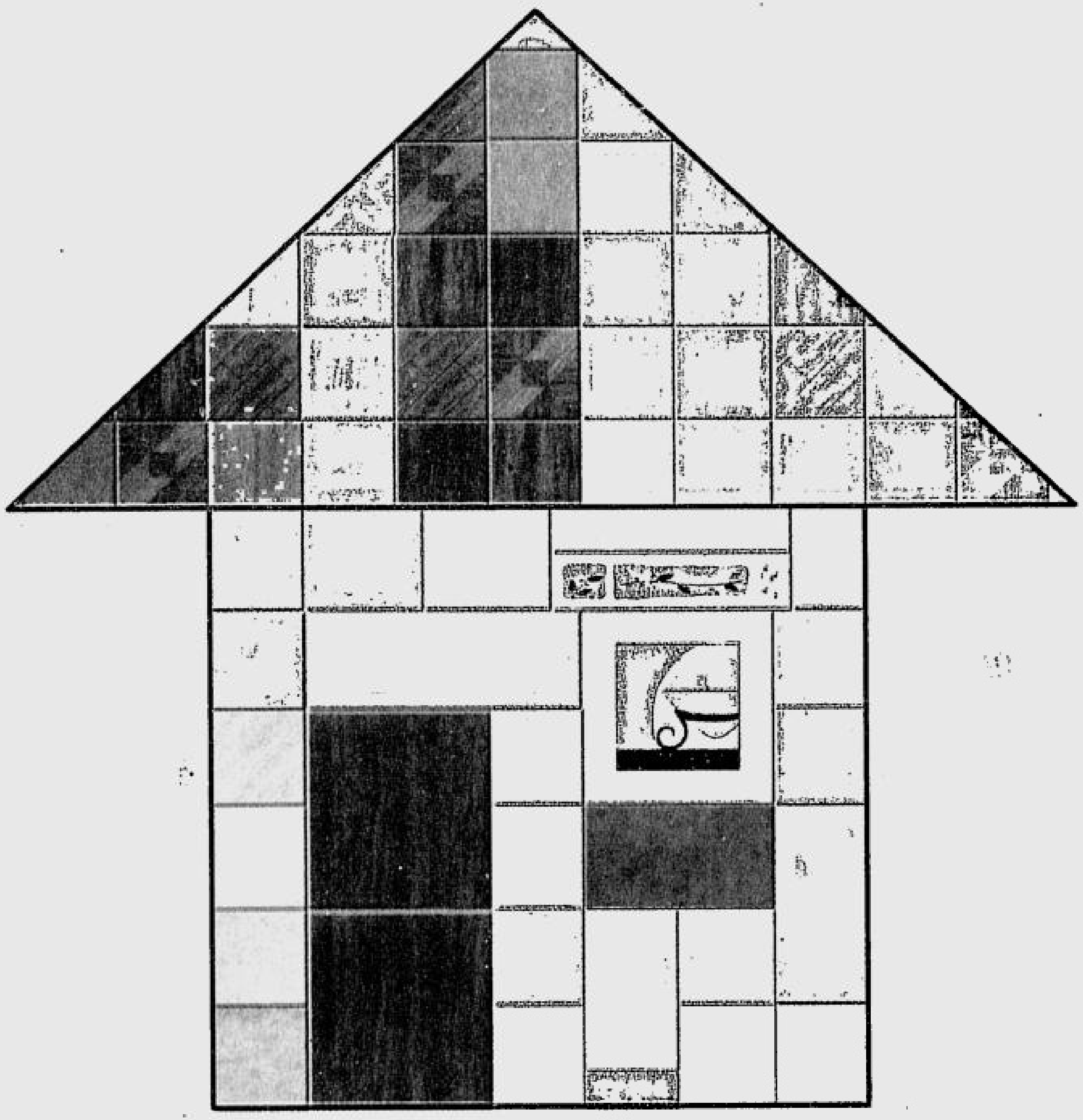
"Barangay officials could also help save government resources from being wasted on nonsense projects because they could participate in identifying which projects are needed most by their constituents," he said.

A total of 123 barangays in Castilla, Casiguran and Sorsogon City are expected to benefit from various DAR-initiated projects under the KAR Zone.

It is hoped that the project would add to about P5 million worth of finished and P15 million worth of ongoing projects by DAR in Sorsogon and strengthen the partnership between government agencies and agrarian reform beneficiaries, Pagdanganan added.

The Barangays of San Isidro, Panlayaan, Buenavista and Salvacion in Sorsogon City are benefiting from the DAR-Asian Development Bank-Agrarian Reform Communities Project, while Escuala, Inlagadian, Tigbao and San Juan in Casiguran are under the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project Phase II, assisted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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'Toward A Hundred Years of Peace'

Fourth General Assembly
Manila, August 31-September 4, 2003

I. WHAT IS THE AAPP?

THE AAPP is the largest gathering of parliaments in Asia—encompassing legislatures from Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, and West Asia—and the only one that has made the promotion of peace its driving objective. It was founded in September 1999, by the leaders of 26 national legislatures and 12 civil society groups in Dhaka —capital city of Bangladesh. Fully 38 parliaments—the largest ever—are represented in the Manila Assembly, with some 200 leaders and members of parliament.

The Dhaka Charter gave the AAPP its heart and soul. It was enriched in Phnom Penh in 2001, when the AAPP called for disarmament and greater protection of human rights—and was further enhanced in Chongqing in 2002, when it declared that "acts of terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances."

H. E. Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, receives a warm welcome from House Speaker Jose de Venecia at the NAIA Saturday. Chairman Wu, China's No. 2 leader, will turn over the Presidency of the AAPP to the Philippine Speaker during Monday's opening of its 4th General Assembly at the Manila Hotel.

II. WHAT THE MANILA ASSEMBLY SEEKS TO ACHIEVE

THIS PURSUIT OF PEACE GAINS deeper significance at the Manila General Assembly, the fourth for the AAPP, with its overarching theme, "Toward a Hundred Years of Peace in Asia."

Speaker Jose de Venecia of the host Philippine House of Representatives and the Asian parliamentary leaders will unveil a core of initiatives to translate AAPP's vision of peace in Asia into concrete and workable proposals. In this effort, the AAPP can count on the wealth of political wisdom, parliamentary experience, and consensus-building skills of the region's senior lawmakers.

These proposals are meant to address the tragic poverty of Asia's rural and urban slums, strengthen the international fight to outflank radical terrorists, and encourage peace efforts now underway to end decades-old conflicts and rebellions in the region—and elsewhere in the world. These initiatives are bound to enrich the scope of the AAPP's work.

III. TOWARD A HUNDRED YEARS OF PEACE

THE ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS believe that only a sustained period of regional tranquility will enable the Asian countries to defeat poverty and terrorism and meet their peoples' rising expectations.

In this spirit, these initiatives are to be presented to the Manila Assembly:

Creation of an Asian Anti-Poverty Fund to finance Asian micro-enterprises that are too tiny to attract the commercial banks. The Fund—to be made up of contributions from member-countries and international donors—has the potential to build a new middle class from among Asia's entrepreneurial poor.

Building cooperation in non-traditional fields of security between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization headed by China and Russia and Southeast Asia's three-nation anti-terrorist alliance of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. This will strengthen Asia's fight against terrorists and extremists.

Adding AAPP's voice to those in the world calling for a dialogue of civilizations to achieve multi-racial understanding as the only basis for the long-term security of the global community.

Declaration of support for a Philippine proposal to create an Interfaith Council as a regular UN organ to mediate the dialogue of civilizations—of cultures and religions. This proposal was well-received by U.S. President George W. Bush when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia discussed the idea with him in Washington during Mrs. Arroyo's state visit.

Welcome for efforts by governments and rebel forces opposing them to make peace: in Aceh Province of Indonesia; Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Russia's Chechnya; and support for the renewed efforts by the powers involved to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is best resolved through the 'land for peace' formula (Saudi Arabia's 'Peace Initiative') augmented by other proposals.

Welcome of the signing by China and ASEAN of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which is the first political document issued by the two sides on the South China Sea question, and which reflects their common aspiration to settle disputes peacefully and to develop modes of cooperation in the South China Sea.

Commendation of Malaysia for mediating the emerging peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the MILF rebels—now in its last stage of completion—and of the governments of Libya and the United States, as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference countries for their support of this process. Support of the peace talks between the Philippines and the National Democratic Front insurgents—brokered by Norway—which are about to reach a decisive phase in Oslo.

Commendation of China for its success in organizing the meeting of six states in Beijing aimed at resolving peacefully the nuclear weapons issue in the Korean Peninsula; and **of the governments of Pakistan and India for their renewed efforts to deal with the Kashmir question.**

Support of the American and United Nations effort to stabilize the situation in Afghanistan; and of a wider role for the UN in Iraq.

Proposal for the AAPP to begin to inquire into the feasibility of its *eventual* evolution into an Asian Parliamentary Assembly along the pattern of the 45-nation Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

THESE ARE THE UNFINISHED—and continuing tasks—to which the AAPP is expected to rededicate itself in Manila: the work of achieving peace, stability and development for the whole of the Asian continent. ■

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THE AAPP'S FOUNDING MEMBER-PARLIAMENTS: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Vietnam and Yemen. **PARLIAMENTS THAT JOINED AFTER 1999:** Bahrain, Bhutan, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. **SOME OF ASIA'S SENIOR PARLIAMENTARIANS AND STATESMEN ATTENDING THE MANILA ASSEMBLY:** ***Chairman Wu Bangguo*** of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, ***Speaker Ugen Dorje*** of Bhutan, ***Deputy Speaker Hamid Siddiqui*** of Bangladesh, ***Deputy Speaker Armin Moshen*** of Iran, ***former Prime Minister Bill Skate*** of Papua New Guinea, ***Deputy Speaker Tosari Widjaja*** of Indonesia, ***Vice Speaker Pany Yathotou*** of Laos, ***Deputy Senate President Gaspar Gurrohu*** of Malaysia, ***Speaker Taranath Ranabhat*** of Nepal, ***Senate Deputy Chairman Khalil Ur Rehman*** of Pakistan, ***former Speaker Lee Man Sup*** of South Korea, ***Deputy Chairman Muborakshoeva*** of Tajikistan, ***Speaker Utai Pimchaichon*** of Thailand, and ***National Assembly Vice-President Nguyen Phuc Thanh*** of Vietnam.

ADVT.

SC fines judge for delay in decision's execution

SANTIAGO CITY—The Supreme Court fined a municipal trial court judge with P10,000 for the "unreasonable delay" in executing his decision on a 1995 debt collection case.

The SC's first division said Judge Ruben Plata of the MTC Branch 1 here was "liable for unreasonable delay in the issuance of the writ of execution of the judgment, which (arose from) gross inefficiency and neglect of duty."

The complaint against Plata was filed by Socorro Hune, an agent of a private lending agency, who accused the judge of sitting on the motion for execution that her lawyer filed in 1998, or three years after Plata decided on the case.

The SC also warned Plata that "the commission of the same or similar act in the future will be dealt with more severely."

Plata declined the INQUIRER's request for an interview.

The complaint against Plata reached the SC administrator on Aug. 4, 1999.

In his decision on Feb. 13, 1995, Plata ordered Dr. Filipinas Abundo and her husband, lawyer Marino Abundo Sr., to pay a P6,000-debt and its 5-percent interest for a loan obtained from Hune's lending agency.

Arturo Catacutan, Hune's former lawyer, filed a motion for execution on the decision on April 17, 1998. Abundo, however, opposed the motion on April 20, 1998.

On Sept. 3, 1999, Plata said he already issued a writ of execution on June 14, 1999, or four years after he issued the decision. But he cited "lack of communication" as the reason why the writ of execution was wrongly sent to Catacutan, who was then replaced by lawyer Ciri'o Bravo.

But Hune said she diligently followed up the release of the writ of execution but the branch's clerk of court was always telling her that Plata had yet to issue it.

The SC also asked Abundo to explain his role on the delay of the judgment's execution.

"It appears that Attorney Abundo used his opposition to the motion for execution as a device to reopen the case or delay the execution of the decision which had been final and executory. This is a *prima facie* violation of Rule 1204 of Canon 12 of The Code of Professional Responsibility which mandates that a lawyer shall not unduly delay a case, including the execution of a judgment or misuse court processes," the SC said.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., in the order, said Abundo should explain why he should not be administratively charged with breaching SC rules.

In Naguilian town, Regional Trial Court Judge Isaac de Alban sentenced a clerk of court to a prison term of four to 10 years for estafa.

In a decision on Aug. 28, De Alban said Nestor Lelina, clerk of court of the Naguilian-Reina Mercedes municipal circuit trial court, falsified public documents to validate a land acquisition deal. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

7 killed, 2 wounded in NPA attacks

LEGAZPI CITY—A police officer, a retired policeman and five civilians were killed in two successive ambushes staged by about 40 New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Lagta, Baleno, Masbate, about 24 km from Masbate City proper on Friday.

Supt. Romeo Mapalo, Masbate police director, said the NPA ambushed retired police officer Winsel Esquilona in Sitio Sog-ong, Barangay Lagta, about 3 km from the town proper.

After the ambush, Baleno Mayor Rodolfo Manlapaz instructed a team composed of SPO2 Jesus Huelva and some members of the Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO) to retrieve Esquilona's body.

Thinking that the NPA rebels had withdrawn from the area, the team responded on board a passenger jeep. Upon reaching Barangay Lagta at about 9 a.m., barely 30 minutes after Esquilona was ambushed, the jeepney hit an improvised landmine, which exploded.

Huelva and five of his companions died on the spot. Killed were CVO members Marlon Mingoy, Ruben Abuedo, Nestor Lancetas and Jonathan Vertucio; and Jay Sanchez, a municipal employee.

Mapalo said at least two other unidentified civilians were also seriously wounded in the ambush.

Chief Supt. Jaime Lasar, Bicol police director, immediately ordered Mapalo and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to conduct hot pursuit operations on the rebels. *Gil Francis Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

Rice truck hijacked

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Armed men posing as policemen hijacked a truck carrying a shipment of rice in Angeles City. Police said the truck carrying 500 sacks of rice was taken at gunpoint by the armed men at Villa Gloria Subdivision in Angeles. The men also took driver Pablito Mariano and helper Ramil Gonzales to Mexico town and left them along the highway. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Computers stolen from school

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Thieves took some P360,000 worth of computers and other equipment from the Anao High School here on Wednesday. Police said the incident was the second theft in the school since 2000. In June 2000, the school lost some P450,000 worth of computers and other equipment to thieves. Investigation showed that school personnel found the padlocks and doorknob of the computer room destroyed when they reported for work on Wednesday. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Drug pushers slain

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Suspected members of a vigilante group killed two alleged drug pushers in Arayat and Magalang towns last week. Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, identified the victims as Ariel Kabigting, 40, and Rodel Dungo, 32. Mendoza said Dungo was driving his tricycle on Saturday with his younger brother Fernando when several armed men shot them. Dungo died instantly while his brother was wounded. On Sunday, Kabigting was shot and killed by a lone gunman. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Outstanding Novo Ecijanos honored

CABANATUAN CITY—The provincial government will honor 12 outstanding Novo Ecijanos who excelled in their respective fields on Tuesday to celebrate Nueva Ecija Day. The awardees are Mayor Sonia Lorenzo, public service; Dr. Rolando Veneracion, health; Maj. Gen. Vicente Francisco Custodio, military service; Pedro Salazar, journalism; Sr. Inocencia Gonzales, community service; Gertrudes Aquino, education; Honorato Angeles, science and technology; Leonila Chavez, cooperatives; Virginia Esteban, trade and industry; Ida Bagasao, social service; Beverly Garin Mendoza, sports; and Reynaldo Villar, agriculture. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

DAR scholars in Bicol

SORSOGON CITY—Some 150 deserving children of Bicolano farmer-beneficiaries of the Department of Agrarian Reform have availed themselves of the President Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Reform Scholarship Program. A total of 1,127 farmers' children nationwide have enjoyed the benefit, according to a DAR news release. DAR offers 1,500 scholarship grants to deserving children of farmer-beneficiaries, each of whom are entitled to free tuition, book allowance and a monthly stipend. *Emir Gamis PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Teen held for drugs

LEGAZPI CITY—An 18-year-old suspected pusher was caught by members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in a buy-bust operation near a school in Barangay Rawis. PDEA Bicol operations officer Senior Insp. Dennis Vargas identified the suspect as Joseph Sadia, of the same barangay. Recovered from him were two sachets of suspected shabu. RA 9165 stipulates that the penalty is death for those caught near school premises, within 100 meters distance, regardless of purity and quantity of the substance, Vargas said. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

7 fishers charged

CUENCA, Batangas—Seven illegal fishers and six fishing boats were nabbed on Aug. 27 by members of the PNP Maritime while using fine mesh net in Taal Lake. The suspects were arrested aboard their fishing boats while hauling small fries of the endangered *tawilis*, known as the world's only freshwater herring found only in Taal Lake. Batangas PNP Maritime chief Chief Inspector Aniceto Malapitan identified the fishing boats as FB Champion 2, FB Jesus Christ, FB Sto. Niño, FB Buenas, FB Masuerti. That same night, another illegal fishing boat FB Dan Esral A was nabbed in the Palico River of Nasugbu town. Its 10 crew members were also arrested in the act of using the fine mesh net. Malapitan said charges have been filed against the 27 men. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Stude dies in frat hazing

LEGAZPI CITY—A freshman student of Bicol University died 12 days after he was confined in a hospital due to a fraternity hazing. At past midnight on Tuesday, doctors in the Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital declared James Conda, 18, dead after 12 days in comatose. Dr. James Belgira, assistant regional chief of the police crime laboratory, who conducted the autopsy on Conda's body said Conda's death was caused by broncho-pneumonia. He said he did not see signs of violent injuries on the victim's body but surmised that the final rites by the suspect fraternity, Phi Omicron, might have lowered the victim's resistance and triggered infection. Conda's parents refused to comment on the matter, the father being a Phi Omicron member himself. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Meet urged to put nat'l unity gov't on agenda

From page A1

of a summit, emphasized that the aim of the political exercise was to "shore up support for the Constitution and democratic institutions."

Drilon noted that the "natural members" of the opposition in the working group would be Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III and House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

Sotto, as well as fellow opposition Senators Gregorio Honasan and Teresa Aquino-Oreta, who earlier called for a snap election, have agreed to attend the summit.

Drilon said he understood the willingness of the opposition to attend the summit as a "good sign, good development and good indication."

Political ceasefire

But if administration officials see the summit as a sort of political ceasefire, they may be disappointed. The warning came from an unlikely quarter: Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, formerly a member of the opposition in the Senate.

"The notion of a political ceasefire, implying a forced silence on the issues gripping the country, is probably not conceivable at this stage," Ople wrote in his regular newspaper column, downplaying the President's public appeal for a stop to politicking.

"One reason for this is that the opposition is under the false illusion that the (Macapagal) Arroyo administration is so weakened that all it needs to be toppled is a swift coup de grace that can be inflicted on the floor of Congress and a massive rally in the streets."

Ople continued: "Then there is the belief in some government circles that leaders of the opposition can be decimated by linking them to the (July 27) mutiny and the bigger coup attempts purported to follow from it."

He urged foreign governments and investors to ignore the political tumult, insisting that the President maintains a firm grip on power.

The political squabbling should be seen in the context of parties jockeying for position ahead of the May 10, 2004 presidential election, the secretary said.

Ople chastised the press for failing to put the situation in its proper context, which has resulted in investment flight. He said the Manila envoy of a key Philippine ally told him last week that "all foreign embassies in the Philippines had the problem of putting the events as reported by local media in their proper context."

Ople wrote: "Foreign investors have to be reassured that the Philippines is not about to collapse, that the economic fundamentals remain sound, that the government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is essentially and fundamentally stable."

Palace hopes

The official word from Malacañang, however, continued to wax hopeful about the summit.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told the RMN radio network that the political summit would be an ideal forum to distinguish the legitimate issues from those that only distract the country from its real concerns.

Bunye said the President had ordered Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao and Legislative Liaison Officer Gabby Claudio to coordinate with the leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding the details of the summit.

Bunye said he expected to get a clearer picture of the summit agenda within the next two days.

But he said the participants would include former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Bunye also blasted Oreta's earlier call for a snap election. This would only add more confusion to the already tense political situation, he said. "A snap election has no basis under our constitution and the upcoming national elections are just less than a year away," Bunye said.

In the Senate, Drilon said Vice President Teofisto Guingona as well as leaders of all major political parties would be invited to the summit.

The Senate President also urged critics of the summit to come up "with their own proposed solutions" on how to solve "the current problem of political bickering."

"Instead of immediately shooting down the proposal, perhaps we can ask these critics what their suggestions are. But one thing is definite, this episode of finger-pointing and political bickering must stop," Drilon said.

In a statement he also issued to media organizations, Drilon assured the opposition that pro-administration politicians would not dominate the summit.

"For this political summit to be successful and attain its objectives, it should adopt the basic format of a dialogue between the leaders of the pro-administration and opposition political parties," he said. "Otherwise, it will be a monologue and we will be wasting our time."

Drilon's assurance that the summit will adopt a dialogue format was in reaction to concerns raised by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Honasan that the summit may be dominated by pro-administration lawmakers.

Unity gov't

Villarama said a government of national unity would "help minimize political partisanship and enlist the cooperation of all parties in promoting economic growth."

"Instead of just talking (at the summit), let's agree to form a government of national unity and cooperation, one that is inspired by love of country," he said.

He, however, warned Ms Macapagal that unless the proper atmosphere was set in the political summit, the opposition may just use it to pressure her to declare her political plans for 2004.

Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said in a separate interview that giving the opposition a greater role in running the government will reduce political tension.

"It's a good move to show the administration's sincerity to move forward together," Nograles said. "The administration shares power, the opposition shares responsibility." *With reports from Gil Cabacungan; AFP*

Magsaysay awardee absent but not silent

From page A1

contents all erased.

Gao, a gynecologist, has been at the forefront of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) prevention in China through a massive information and health care campaign, particularly in Henan province where she discovered the disease spreading in epidemic proportions because of wanton and unregulated buy-and-sell of blood and blood plasma. This situation was abetted by ignorance on the part of the poor, and greed on the part of government officials, blood traders, blood banks and pharmaceutical companies.

Crusade

Gao's crusade began after her retirement. She wrote: "I began to realize the epidemic of AIDS in my province in 1996 when I started my education and advocacy for AIDS prevention, treatment and care. A patient of mine died of AIDS that year. The woman got a blood transfusion in an operation two years before and became infected. The fact that blood came from a blood bank shocked me. Our blood is not safe. How many people may have been infected?"

In November 1999, she pointed out, an epidemiologist tested 155 blood sellers at a village in Henan and found 96 people HIV-positive (the AIDS-causing Human Immunodeficiency Virus) or 60 percent. "As a doctor and former representative," she said, "I have the responsibility to tell people: Act up, Stop AIDS, our blood is not safe."

With the help of volunteers, Gao used her own personal resources and distributed printed materials in schools, women's groups, villages, train stations and bars. They also informed the local, national and international media. On World AIDS Day (started by Mann and his group), she organized consciousness-raising activities. The Henan officials were not smiling.

Born in 1927 in Shandong province, Gao finished medicine at the Henan Medical College in 1953. She worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the No. 2 People's Hospital in Zheng Zhou City and later taught at the medical college there. Before she retired, she was into private practice and teaching at the same time.

Her representative, Zhou Xingping, said Gao's first husband was a member of the Kuomintang who fled to Taiwan after the communist takeover. This made Gao an object of suspicion. She is presently married to Guo Mingju with whom she has three children.

Death threats

Instead of being rewarded for her efforts, some officials criticized Gao as a tool of so-called "International Anti-China Forces." Gao received threatening phone calls. She was warned that her life would be at risk if she continued with her revelations.

China has the so-called "Great Wall for AIDS" meant to prevent the spread of the disease, which Gao criticized as "quite naive." China had banned imports of blood products and screen foreign visitors starting 1980, Gao said, and yet blood donation China was not under the same strict screening.

In an article she wrote, Gao said that HIV-AIDS education stressed modes of HIV transmission, such as extramarital sex, prostitution and intravenous drug use, but very rarely was the selling of blood spoken about.

The BBC website, which featured Gao ("China bars AIDS activist visiting US") described the horrible blood trade in Henan:

"The disease spread through the province through a blood-buying business—operating in the early 1990s—set up by Henan health officials. Under the scheme, the blood collected was pooled in a large tub, where valuable plasma was extracted to be sold to pharmaceutical companies. Donors were given back replenishments of red blood cells with contaminated needles. The profitable business generated much revenue for the local health authority as well as kickbacks for officials involved, before it was outlawed in 1996."

With the blood disaster getting out of hand, Gao not only worked as a medicine woman but also became an information agent. She did not have much money—her pension funds and teaching fees—for sleek, well printed stuff. She and her volunteers used simple materials and printed hundreds of thousands of these.

Gao also continued to give lectures everywhere. She also visited bars.

'Monster'

"The women hid themselves as if a terrible monster had come," Gao recalled. "Some of the braver women took a look at the materials. When they saw that they were about AIDS, they threw them into the trash can saying, 'Old lady, get out of here. If the customers see these no one will dare come here.'" Scenes like this happened quite often.

Henan authorities were just as zealous in their cover-up, issuing glowing reports about their health programs. But some writers were brave enough to write. An article by AIDS activist Wan Yanyhai ("China Health news and the Henan province health scandal cover-up") circulated on the Internet. He estimated the number of people infected with HIV through illegal blood "donation" to be 300,000 and it did not include HIV infections through other means.

The international media took note. Zhou Xingping, a freelance writer who is representing Gao during the awarding ceremonies, said Chinese journalists, who had written about the Henan case, have been under surveillance and some had been fired.

Zhou described Henan as a cultural hub of China in the ancient days. Now it is visited with urban blight and disease, a ghost of its glory days.

High in Gao's priority list are the AIDS orphans. She takes their photos and, Zhou said, she keeps them in frayed little boxes, showing them to anyone who cares to see and offer help.

Zhou described Gao as stubborn and determined. But in a video clip, she is shown shedding tears as she talks of a daughter who is now in Canada and in the next breath she shoots down the government condom campaign. "Condom is not the solution," she huffs.

Grandma Courage

Gao has been hailed by many in her own country and abroad. Time magazine put her in its roster of Asian heroes and called her "Grandmother Courage." Asiaweek described her as "a voice in the wilderness" and Businessweek included her in its "Stars of Asia" list.

She has not slowed down. Wrote Gao: "I used my own money to make an AIDS prevention educational program, to give medicine to the sick ... Over the years I have spent over UD$12,000 doing this. What kind of place do I live in? It is an old apartment with not one piece of decent furniture. My husband and myself are over 70 years of age. We don't have any heating in the winter. Many people don't understand me. They say that I am wasting my time."

Gao will receive $50,000 from the RM Award Foundation.

Southern Weekend publication quoted her: "I'm already so old. If my death can make more people concerned, then I'm willing to die."

Dr. Gao Yaojie started out as a lone crusader and although many have heeded her call and were moved to action, much of what Gao does is still a one-woman mission, a passionate, if not a near-desperate attempt to shake the health bureaucracy and inform the poor about what is killing them. And to bring back to life a part of China that is dying.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 1, 2003
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	1 Thes 4:13-18
Gospel:	Lk 4:16-30

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

"The Spirit has anointed me." Besides the consciousness of the Abba's presence in his life, Jesus was also very much aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in him. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit descended on him like a dove when he was baptized at the Jordan as if Jesus was the perfect nest or resting place. The Spirit led him to the desert and never abandoned him during the temptations. At the beginning of his ministry, he made it clear that it was the Spirit who anointed him to announce the good news. He performed miraculous deeds through the power of the Spirit. With the Spirit in him, Jesus could do no wrong. Are we aware of the Spirit's presence in our lives? Are we persons led by the Spirit of Christ?

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'04 voters reminded on validation

From page A1

In places where there are no data capturing machines, registration will be conducted manually. There will also be no validation of registration records in these places.

How to register

Those wishing to register should go to their local Comelec offices, which are usually located near their city and municipal halls. The offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., including Sundays and Saturdays.

There, they shall be asked to accomplish two copies of the application form, which they may reproduce or photocopy before they go to the election officer to apply.

The applicants will also be asked to submit any current identification card issued and signed by their employers, or their school, library, postal or senior citizen's ID. A driver's license, National Bureau of Investigation clearance with picture or passport will do.

No 'cedula'

Cedulas (residence certificates) are not honored during registration, according to the Comelec.

After the submission of the application forms, including an oath that the information they contain are true, the applicant's demographic and biometrics data will be "captured" and encoded by the Data Capture Software operator.

The biometrics will be composed of the photograph of the applicant, his signature as captured on the signature card and fingerprints.

A copy of the accomplished forms will be given to the applicant. Another copy will be retained by the election officer.

In the absence of identification cards, another voter may identify the applicant. But no voter will be allowed to identify more than three applicants unless they are immediate members of his family or a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity, according to the Comelec.

To check against fraud, any voter or representative of a registered political party or watcher may challenge any person applying for registration.

This challenge shall be attached to the application forms together with the proof of notice of hearing to the applicant.

Those who want to validate their registrations need not go to the local election officer because the Comelec plans to put up satellite stations in areas like malls and schools.

Like first-time registrants, those who want to validate their registration should bring any of the following: current identification card issued and signed by his/her employer, school, library, postal or senior citizen's IDs, driver's license and NBI clearance with photo or passport.

After the application forms are submitted, a voter's demographics and biometrics will be encoded into the data capturing machines. A copy of the form will be given to the voter.

Continuing list-up

The Comelec's continuing registration is the listing up of qualified people who have yet to vote. They are at least 18 years old and residents of the Philippines for at least one year. He or she must have lived in the place where he or she plans to vote for at least six months on or before May 10, 2004.

For those who transferred residence, he or she may file an application for transfer of registration records at the office of the election officer of his new residence starting Aug. 4 until Oct. 31. The transferee shall be required to attach a certified copy of his current voter registration records.

Disqualified from registering are people sentenced by final judgment to suffer imprisonment of not less than one year, and those convicted of rebellion, sedition, violation of the firearms law and crime against national security.

Insane or "incompetent" persons as declared by "competent" authority are also disqualified.

Squatters

The Comelec has issued rules aimed at rationalizing the voters' list particularly in squatters' areas where residents are required to validate their registration records before casting their votes. Transferees will be allowed to vote only in their areas of origin.

Malacañang has ordered the Comelec to explain its plan to purge the voters' list in the May elections, a move that could disenfranchise millions of squatters and transferees.

"[The] Comelec has to explain the reason for this move and the other alternatives considered before it decided on this matter," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said on RMN. "Voting is one of our basic rights and there has to be a good justification why it cannot be exercised by our people."

Deposed President Joseph Estrada criticized the Comelec's decision as a desperate move by President Macapagal-Arroyo to purge list of urban poor voters, who form the support base of the opposition. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK TWO—CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—Robbery with homicide—In robbery with homicide cases, the prosecution needs to prove these elements: (a) the taking of personal property is perpetrated by means of violence or intimidation against a person; (b) the property taken belongs to another; (c) the taking is characterized by intent to gain or animus lucrandi; and (d) on the occasion of the robbery or by reason thereof, the crime of homicide, here used in its generic sense, is committed. In a long line of cases, this court has ruled that whenever homicide is committed as a consequence or on the occasion of the robbery, all those who took part as principals in the robbery will also be held guilty as principals in the special complex crime of robbery with homicide although they did not take part in the homicide, unless it is clearly shown that they endeavored to prevent the homicide. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Carpio-Morales, People v. Napalit, G.R. Nos. 142919 and 143876, February 4, 2003] BY R. B. VERA

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OPEN LETTER TO HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Dear Madame President,

We, the various stakeholders that will be adversely and severely affected by the establishment of the proposed SM Mall near the Main Gate of the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) plea for your kind intercession and pray that the agreement between CDC and SM does not come to fruition for the following reasons:

- The Agreement between Emmanuel Angeles of CDC and Henry Sy of the SM group was executed surreptitiously without proper consultations to the affected stakeholders, a clear violation to the spirit of transparency in governance as advocated by your administration;
- As the proposed SM Mall will enjoy certain privileges of locators of the CSEZ, it will have unfair and lethal advantage over retailers outside of the economic zone majority of which are SMEs. The decision of Ayala to back-out from its proposed P 1 billion Glorieta Mall in Angeles City underscores this expected inequity;
- Establishing an SM Mall in the proposed site will, as it did in San Fernando City, jeopardize the existing permanent jobs from the retail industry in Angeles City and Mabalacat estimated at about 80,000 and 17,000, respectively, in exchange for the mere 2,000 contractual jobs that SM will generate;
- With the projected displacements of several thousands permanent jobs, we expect a significant rise in criminality and violence in the affected areas;
- The proposed SM Mall will aggravate the already bad traffic condition along the arterial highway of Angeles City and Mabalacat and will be a catalyst for urban decay in the area;
- The proposed SM is not in accordance to the Master Plan of the CSEZ and will hinder easy access to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport;
- The proposed SM Mall will draw shoppers away from the designated commercial area inside the CSEZ, thereby exacerbating the already precarious lots of the existing commercial locators within the CSEZ;
- The proposed SM Mall will siphon the revenues that used to be enjoyed by the local retailers who pay taxes to the local governments and divert the same to the Manila-based SM tenants who pay taxes in Manila, thereby reducing the revenues of the local government units; and,
- The proposed SM Mall will cause a significant drop in the revenues of the affected local government units as a result of the decrease in the revenues of local retailers.

Madame President, the Central Business District of City of San Fernando has become a virtual ghost town. Thanks to Henry Sy's SM Mall. Please do not let him repeat this exploitation and outrage on your Cabalens.

become a virtual ghost town. Thanks to Henry Sy's SM Mall. Please do not let him repeat this exploitation and outrage on your Cabalens.

FRANCIS "BLUEBOY" NEPOMUCENO
Representative
1st District of Pampanga

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Barangay Captain
Balibago, Angeles City

MILO VERRY
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Clark Investors & Locators Association

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President
San Nicolas Public Market Vendors Association, Inc.

VICENTE OCAMPO
San Fernando Transport Cooperative

ADVT

Ping: Mike A still undecided

From page A1

Pidal last Friday," Lacson said in a statement.

The opposition senator was referring to Channel 7's interview with a man claiming to be the real Jose Pidal. The man said he was using a fictitious name in the bank account he had opened "for practical purposes and for security reasons which I shall elaborate on when I present my position."

Lacson's camp said the man claiming to be Jose Pidal was accompanied by a certain lawyer, Antonio Zulueta.

It said the television interview of the man claiming to be Jose Pidal was facilitated by Puno, "a known backroom operator, who had also worked under former Ambassador Kokoy Romualdez during the Marcos years and under Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. during the Ramos administration.

Puno is said to be close to Mike Arroyo, his classmate at the Ateneo High Shool. He transferred to the Arroyo camp and became its media and political consultant after he worked with the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa in the 2001 senatorial election.

On Tuesday, the Senate committees on blue ribbon, constitutional amendments and banks are scheduled to open their inquiry into Lacson's accusations that the First Gentleman amassed ill-gotten money that he kept in secret bank accounts.

In a privileged speech on Aug. 18, Lacson accused Arroyo of laundering more than P200 million in campaign contributions to Ms Macapagal in bank accounts like those of Jose Pidal.

Today, Lacson is expected to disclose more explosive information against the First Gentleman when he delivers "Chapter Two" of his privileged speech against the man he earlier dubbed the "Incredible Hulk."

"He (Lacson) is a desperate man. Desperate men do desperate things," Santos said in an earlier statement.

Santos said the real Jose Pidal would surface in the next few days to "reveal the extent of the deception that Lacson foisted on the people."

"Now, with the real Jose Pidal set to come out, he (Lacson) will be unmasked in public as a black propagandist, an outright liar and fabricator of spurious evidence," Santos said.

The lawyer denied having met or known Yap.

He said Lacson was getting desperate to "head off his own troubles with his peers in the Senate and in the courts."

Santos said the Senate plenary was set to approve a joint report calling for a criminal investigation of Lacson's involvement in drugs, kidnap-for-ransom and other crimes.

The lawyer said the unmasking of Lacson as a "black propagandist" would also lead to the senator's loss in the criminal and civil cases filed against him by Arroyo. On Friday, Arroyo and Santos filed a civil case against Lacson asking for P10 million in damages.

In a phone interview, Lacson told the INQUIRER yesterday that among the things he would reveal in his second privileged speech in two weeks were the other bank accounts that the President's husband allegedly kept.

One was a joint account of Arroyo as Jose Pidal and Victoria Toh, the First Gentleman's accountant.

"It's more than the seven bank accounts (identified by his erstwhile witness Eugenio Mahusay Jr.)," the opposition senator said.

Lacson did not want to elaborate but said these other bank accounts were kept in different banks.

In an affidavit he executed in July, Mahusay, a former messenger in the office of the First Gentleman, alleged that Arroyo's other bank accounts were under the names of the Lualhati Foundation, Kelvin Tan, Thomas Toh and Victoria Toh.

Mahusay said he had been tasked with withdrawing from and depositing to the bank accounts that Arroyo allegedly opened at the Union Bank branch on Perea Street, Makati City, the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the International Exchange Bank.

But Mahusay is now in the custody of Michael Defensor, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, after he was taken by his family from Lacson's men in Tagaytay City last week. *Christine Avendaño and Alcuin Papa*

Floridians happiest ...

From page A1

The poll, focusing on stress in the United States, showed that 94 percent of Floridians claim to be happy, compared with 91 percent of Californians, 85 percent of Texans and 84 percent of New Yorkers.

Nationally, 42 percent of those surveyed agree with the statements that their minds are like a "cluttered, dusty attic" and is in serious need of a "spring cleaning."

People in Florida appear to need this mental spring cleaning the least, with just 30 percent expressing such a need, compared with 38 percent of Californians and 43 percent of Texans and New Yorkers.

Stress is a daily problem for 36 percent of those surveyed. Five percent say they are so stressed that they cannot deal with their worries and problems.

One in six polled (16 percent) say they have already considered suicide, while one in eight (13 percent) said they have taken antidepressants in the hope of shedding some light on the darkness.

But on a high note, 91 percent of those polled say they laugh at least once a day.

The poll of 1,015 people, conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International of Princeton, New Jersey, was carried out Aug. 14-17 and has a 3-percentage-point margin of error.

The poll was commissioned by Sedona Training Associates. *AFP*

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DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

The National Power Corporation will conduct a public bidding for the following items:

ITEM DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1. One (1) lot approximately 172,000 kgs of various unserviceable items, consisting of 24 items such as steel plates of various thickness, pipe fittings, acid tanks, compressors cylinders, flanges, burner assembly, radiator, steel rack welding machines, boilers feed pumps, GRF, rotor blade CWP bushing pumps, weighing scale, diesel generator and other items located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 5.00/kg.
2. One (1) lot of junk items consisting of corroded drums, air heater elements, junk motors vehicles and angle bars approximately 33,000 kgs., located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 3.00/kg.
3. One (1) lot condenser tubes, 1,258 pcs. And scrap copper cables approximately 150 kgs., located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 640,500.00/lot
4. One (1) lot of unserviceable station and automotive battery, 59 pcs. located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	P 2,960.00/lot
5. One (1) lot residual diesel Fuel a) approximately 203 drums	P 324,240.00/lot

Note. The disposal of residual fuel is on a "AS IS, WHERE IS AND TAKE ALL" Basis. DRUMS NOT INCLUDED

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 2.00 p.m. of September 16, 2003 at the Materials Management Department Office, Ground Floor, Bldg. I, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read. For bid forms at P500.00 per set, additional information and request for inspection, please see Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr at the above address or call telephone no 922-8431 or 924-5384. Deadline for the issuance of bid forms is 4.30 p.m. on September 15, 2003. All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2002) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY).

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposal as may be advantageous to its interest.

For the Materials Management Department
FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
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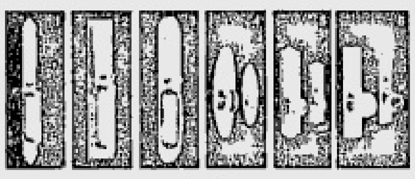

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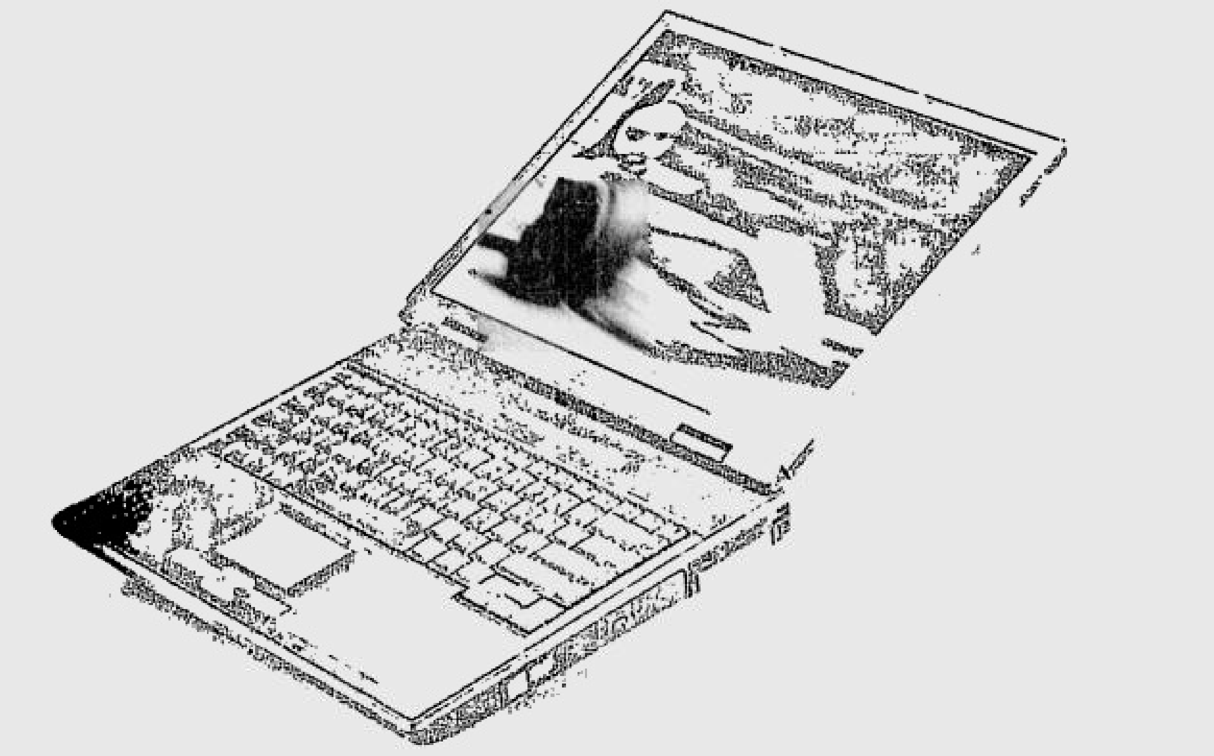

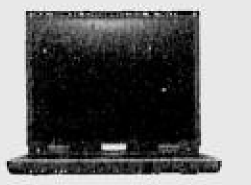

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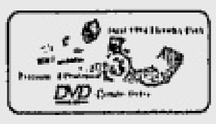

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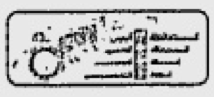

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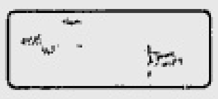

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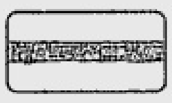

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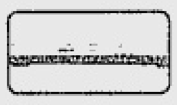

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Edbane's fate still hanging–Bunye

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

HE might have been absolved of complicity in the infamous escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, but Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. is still not safe from the President's axe.

In an interview with the RMN radio network, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo had yet to decide on calls to name a new PNP chief.

"We all know that this is public knowledge and that this has reached the President. Let us just wait for the President to make her decision on this matter," Bunye said.

While Ebdane's fate remained up in the air, Bunye said the President had instructed the PNP chief to recapture Al-Ghozi as soon as possible, preferably before US President George W. Bush's visit to the Philippines in October.

"General Ebdane is determined to capture Al-Ghozi because his honor rests on the success of this operation," Bunye said.

A fact-find commission tasked by the President with investigating the breakout of Al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf detainees from Camp Crame has blamed the fiasco on a cell's defective design. It not only cleared Ebdane of any command responsibility but it also commended the PNP chief for his decision to make every policeman involved a suspect.

The resignation of military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes in the wake of the July 27 mutiny has fanned rumors that Ebdane would be next on the President's chopping block.

JES YUSON

PRESIDENT Macapagal greets Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, who celebrated his 75th birthday with a Mass at the Manila Cathedral.

Ramos, Biazon, Pichay floated as Reyes successor

From page A1

choice," Nograles said.

In the halls of Congress, however, the name of Rep. Prospero Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), the chair of the House defense committee, is being mentioned as a possible appointee.

Another name being mentioned is that of Rep. Tomas Dumpit (NPC, La Union), a former military officer and now Pichay's vice chair.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin (Lakas, Basilan) noted that Pichay was a civilian unlike retired generals like Reyes.

"My point is that the next defense secretary should be a civilian to pursue the constitutional principle of civilian supremacy over the military," Salapuddin said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye denied that Malacañang had pressured Reyes to resign or that it suspected him of planning to launch a coup d'etat.

"Secretary Reyes is one of the most trusted Cabinet officials of the President," Bunye said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who took over the DND post in a concurrent capacity, was still reviewing a list of potential replacement for Reyes, including Ramos.

Limited choices

But Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. (PDP-Laban, Makati City) said the President's hands must not be tied by limiting her choices to civilians.

Locsin said Reyes' replacement should not only fulfill standard requirements, such as having the ability to "determine force levels" to ensure the safety of the Republic, but also one suited to this "peculiar condition of a destabilized environment."

In this regard, Locsin said, Reyes' input would be vital because the resigned defense chief knows who among his potential successors have helped in quelling the July 27 military mutiny.

In Zamboanga City, the head of the military's largest area command took the opposite tack, saying the President should consider another military general with "vast experience in the field" to replace Reyes.

Taking pains to say he was merely expressing his personal opinion, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said he did not agree with Sen. Manuel Villar's recommendation that a civilian should take the helm of the country's defense portfolio.

He said an "ex-general is more qualified" because of leadership traits, character and natural understanding of the military.

"You cannot just disqualify an ex-military man, in fact he is the most qualified," Kyamko told the INQUIRER before he held his meeting with visiting US Marine commander Gen. Michael Hagee on Saturday.

But he said the decision would of course still be up to the President.

Reyes defended

Kyamko also defended Reyes against allegations of incompetence and disregard for civilian lives. "Most of his programs were aimed at the protection and security of the civilians," he said.

But while he was saddened by Reyes' departure, Kyamko said the resignation was also good for the Department of National Defense and the military.

"His resignation will spare the DND and the AFP, as institutions from malicious attacks," Kyamko said.

As if to support Kyamko's view, Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson said the next defense secretary should have Ramos' credibility and management style.

"Former President Ramos commanded the respect of officers and enlisted men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. That is the best quality (that we should look for in) the next Department of National Defense secretary," Singson, a member of the House defense committee, said.

He said Ramos, during his stint as defense secretary in the late 1980s, unified the AFP and stopped several coup attempts by renegade soldiers.

Singson said problems might crop up if the next defense secretary is a civilian with no military background.

He cited the case of former Sen. Orlando Mercado, DND chief during the Estrada administration, who, he said, encountered problems in dealing with problems in the AFP.

Singson, however, did not elaborate. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Life of GMA administration being fought in DND

From page A1

nized, well-funded effort by certain forces to bring down democracy through massive disinformation and political agitation."

With this statement, he correctly stated that the issue raised by the failed July 27 coup and the stepped-up agitation by anti-administration forces to topple the sitting government is the survival of democracy under siege from the excesses of adversarial politics mounted in the name of democratic contention.

Reyes said he could no longer take the vicious criticisms shafted at him and the military institution "by forces that want to bring down the Arroyo government."

As in 2001, Reyes, in galvanizing the chain of command behind the defection, repeats the theme that criticisms against him and the AFP would fracture the military the way they were in the coups of the 1980s, and destroy the military as an effective institution and a "vital defender of democracy."

Risks

Reyes' resignation statement highlights the risks facing people who join public service.

"I found that partisan politics has made the business of governance an extremely difficult affair," he said.

"Much of the time of a public official is spend defending himself and this institution from various vicious attacks in various mediums. Politics in this country has made public risky, unhealthy and an extremely frustrating profession. No wonder the best and the brightest of the young generation hesitate to enter public service."

This statement finds resonance in the grueling experience of public servants, whether in the Cabinet or in the bureaucracy, who have been pilloried in endless congressional investigations carried out "in aid of legislation," who have run the gauntlet of confirmation of their appointment by the Commission on Appointments, Congress' reincarnation of the Holy Inquisition.

It is foolish to argue that his resignation is a step toward the declaration of martial law. This administration has shown less appetite for martial law or arbitrary methods to gain power than the conspirators of the failed July 27 coup.

Reyes' resignation removes him from the line of fire of allegations of corruption over military supplies procurement that have been raised by the renegade officers.

As such, it can only defuse some of the unrest in the military, stemming from grievances over military corruption, the false basis of the officers' coup plot. The real motive of the Oakwood attack, as shown by unfolding evidence, is to seize power.

Reyes, together with the former military intelligence chief, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, has been accused by the renegade officers of instigating the Davao airport bombings.

Nothing can be more reckless and absurd than these charges. If true, the bombing of a strategic public facility instigated by the leading security officials of the state, is tantamount to treason.

The accusation is a counter-shock response to deflect attention from the treasonous implication of launching a coup to overthrow a legal government.

Corpus

Corpus had earlier resigned as chief of AFP intelligence—a decision which also removed him as lightning rod of grievances from disgruntled military personnel.

The renegade officers have a strong reason to get Corpus and Reyes out of the way. Both had stood in the way of their conspiracy.

It was Corpus who warned the President days ahead of the Oakwood attack of clandestine military movement and of a possible takeover bid. His disclosure of the coup plot stymied it and enabled the government to organize forces to thwart it.

The disclosure dislocated the coup timetable, forcing the plotters to retreat into a trap, Oakwood Premier luxury apartments, where they were surrounded by loyal troops.

It enabled the government to block assembly points of civilian formations recruited by the government's political opponents who, up until now, have not stopped plotting to bring down the government whose legitimacy they have continued to challenge.

It was natural that Reyes and Corpus were the center of attacks because they were two of the most loyal members of the military to the government, not to mention Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the Philippine National Police.

This is why there was a demand and pressure on the President to sack Ebdane for command responsibility over the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, the Indonesian terrorist, from the custody of Camp Crame.

With Reyes no longer in the Cabinet, the charges against him can be channeled into the institutional mechanisms for sober investigation outside of the glare of publicity that feeds the public's appetite for scandal-mongering, the staple that sustains the drive of the political opposition to cut short the life of the government ahead of the 2004 general elections.

Lost target

Reyes' departure gives the President a free hand to strengthen her hand in strengthening the security sector, where she will expect more challenges before next year's elections.

It allows her to name a defense secretary who does not inflame festering grievances running deep inside the military. With Reyes out, renegade officers have lost a convenient target.

During the several crises of this Republic, since the Huk rebellion of the 1950s, the defense department has always played the pivotal role in saving governments from rebellions, and in ending their rule.

It was at defense where Ramon Magsaysay, then secretary of defense, turned the tide in favor of constitutional democracy, by breaking the back of the communist rebellion and by launching reforms to stop abuses by the military to make it an effective instrument to fight insurgencies.

The life of the coup-prone Aquino administration pivoted on who headed the defense department—at first, Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, followed by a line of generals, including Renato de Villa, whose loyalty defended successfully the government from the waves of coups.

Today, the life of this administration, more than the future of democracy, is being fought in the defense department.

Reyes' exit was merely a strategic withdrawal that would allow the beleaguered administration to roll back attacks on constitutional government, coming from military adventurers or impatient political hacks who offer nothing better as political alternatives than the restoration of an old order overwhelmingly rejected by the people three years ago.

Indeed, the commitment of the military leadership to democracy will be tested in the coming shakeup in the defense department.

Bitter battle erupts over 'ampalaya'

By Nini Valera

DR. GUIA Abad will still drink her ampalaya tea even after the Department of Health reclassified ampalaya from a "scientifically-validated herbal medicinal plant to folklorically-validated herbal medicinal plant."

The Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP) will also keep on recommending ampalaya-based products to patients suffering from diabetes mellitus despite the warning from the Bureau of Food and Drugs that ampalaya must not be used as an alternative treatment for that illness.

AMHOP is an association of doctors who handle health services at the municipal level.

Abad, who is president of AMHOP and the municipal health officer of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, told the INQUIRER yesterday that ampalaya, the fruit or products made from it, was doing no harm in the treatment of diabetes, a disease that afflicts millions of Filipinos.

Mere opinion

"We warn patients not to stop taking their primary medications for diabetes and just rely on ampalaya," Abad said. But she added, "We cannot just yank out ampalaya from our health regimen just because of some person's opinion."

Abad was referring to the position paper issued by four doctors belonging to the Philippine Diabetes Association, the Institute for Studies of Diabetes Foundation, the Philippine Center for Diabetes Education, and the Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

The doctors claimed that ampalaya food supplements were not considered part of the standard care for diabetics. Thus, they were not recommending its use.

But Abad said that as far as diabetes was concerned, AMHOP had identified, tested and found ampalaya tea, marketed under the Charantia brand and made from 100 percent ampalaya fruits and seeds, to be a "safe and effective dietary adjunct in the treatment of diabetes."

AMHOP said it believed this product could help its patients in more effectively controlling diabetes.

Equally important as the benefits of ampalaya in the treatment of diabetes was how much more affordable ampalaya-based products were when compared to primary medicines for diabetes.

"We municipal health doctors have very limited budgets so we have to maximize and look for other ways for our patients to become healthy without spending much," said Abad.

"I have tested ampalaya-based preparations on myself and on my patients and have found them to be effective in controlling the sugar level of most Type 2 diabetics," she noted.

Abad argued that long before ampalaya-based preparations hit the market, the fruit had been part of the Filipino diet. She claimed that even before she became a doctor, her family had been using herbs to alleviate various complaints.

"If it helps, why not use it?" Abad asked.

"We are hands-on doctors. We are grounded, and we deal with realities. We do not work in air-conditioned rooms. Field workers become heroes after they're dead, like a midwife who drowned or a doctor who was ambushed on their way to their patients," the municipal doctor lamented.

Food supplement

But the BFAD has also warned diabetic patients to exert caution in the consumption of ampalaya-based tea to lower their blood sugar level.

In a radio interview last week, BFAD Director Leticia Gutierrez said herbal products were registered with BFAD as food supplements.

She clarified that a "food supplement was not intended to prevent, cure, treat, mitigate or diagnose any illness."

According to Gutierrez, advertisements of food supplements had inadvertently misled the public in thinking that food supplements were alternative medicines for various diseases.

She noted that in the case of ampalaya, the public had gotten the impression that the fruit was a cure for diabetes.

"This is dangerous," she said.

Abad, however, also pointed out that "there were patients who have not taken ampalaya preparations that were also rushed to the ICU."

P100,000 lost in 10-minute Navotas robbery

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE ROBBERY took 10 minutes and grossed P100,000 for six suspects in Navotas on Saturday.

Employees of Carson Financing, a lending company, were doing their routine operations at 2:45 p.m. inside their office at Room 202-203 at CIFRA building on M. Naval Street, Sipac, Navotas, when the suspects barged in.

Investigator PO3 Roel Bañares told the INQUIRER the suspects were able to go up the office because the building had no security guards at that time.

Upon entering the office, the suspects announced a holdup and cut the office's telephone lines.

The suspects then quickly took post-dated checks, P91,000 from the company's lockers and collected an estimated P10,000 from the nine employees present.

Later, the suspects ran down the building and boarded two black Yamaha Enduro motorcycles before fleeing toward Malabon City.

The police in Navotas are eyeing a group of motorcycle-riding suspects that usually operated in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon City, Valenzuela and in the town of Navotas.

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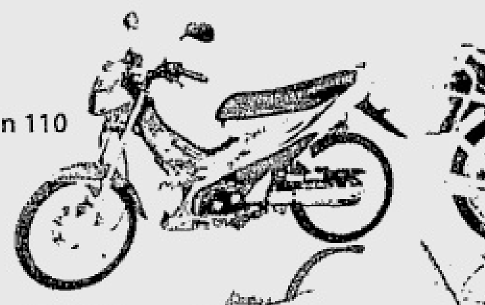

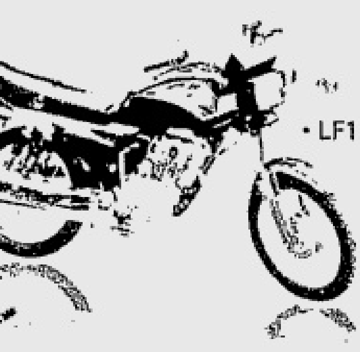

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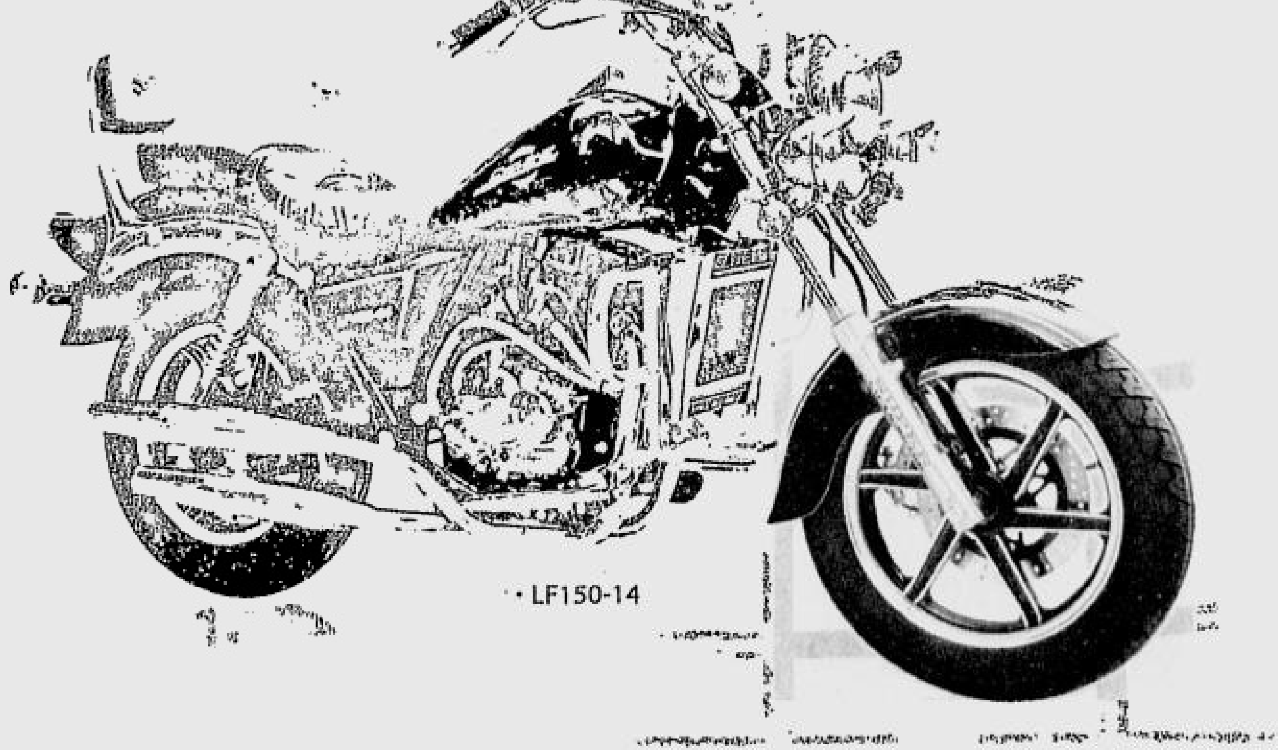

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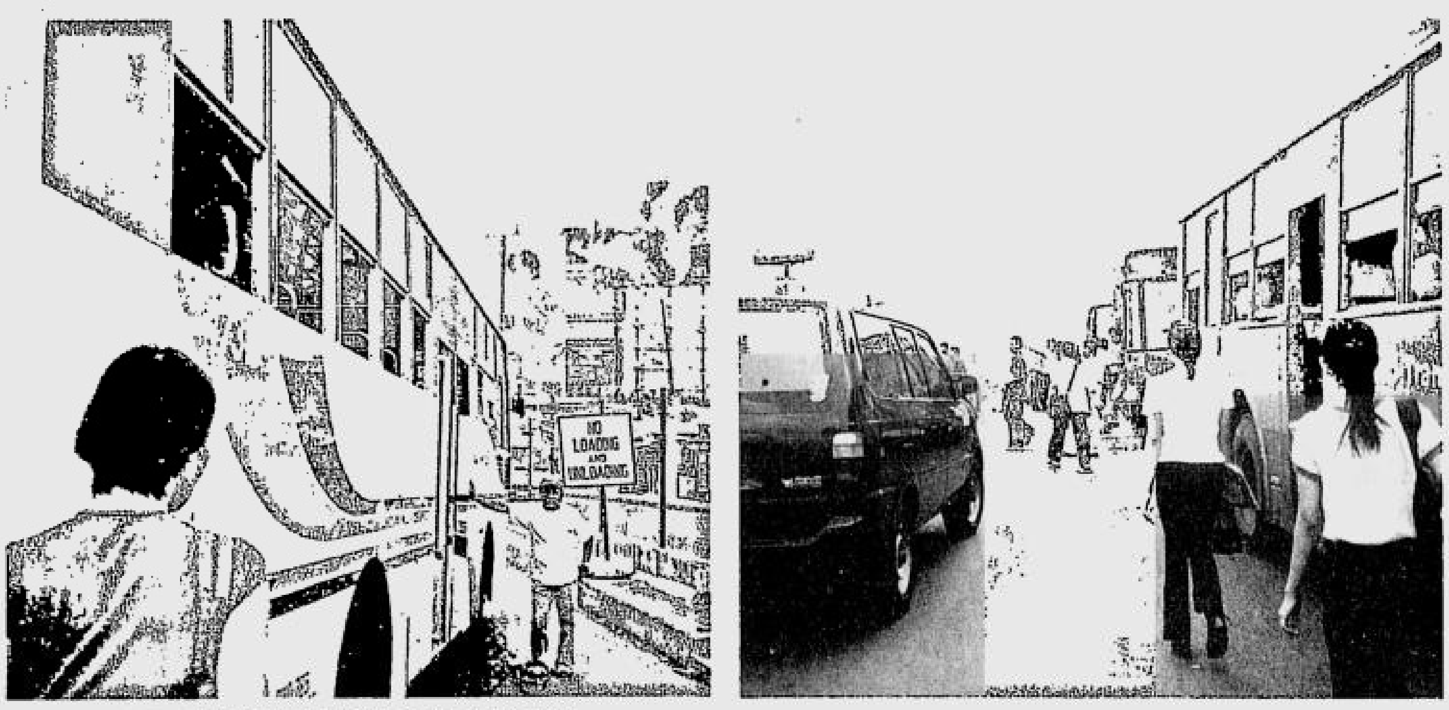


WHAT'S WRONG WITH THESE PICTURES?
These are daily scenes that greet—and irritate—motorists passing by the southbound entry point of the Sucat Interchange in Parañaque City. The bus at the left photo is waiting for passengers at the intersection right next to a "No Loading and Unloading" sign. At right, passenger-prospecting buses block vehicles seeking to take a right turn at the interchange. These photos were taken by one of the irritated motorists.

Woman goes on wild ride

Just like on television

By Alcuin Papa

HAD IT been caught on tape, it was an incident befitting a spot on cable television's "World's Wildest Police Videos." The incident was about a woman who led the police on a car chase along the South Superhighway the other day until before she was finally arrested.

The scene started with a woman identified as Maribeth Velayo of Kamuning, Quezon City, flagging down a cab, a Toyota Corolla (PXA 939) near the GMA-7 station, in Quezon City at around 5 a.m.

Velayo told the driver, Benigno Belmes, to drive north on Edsa.

When they came to a Ministop convenience store in Barangay Veterans in Project 7, Velayo told the driver to park on the side of the road before asking him to buy cigarettes.

The unsuspecting driver stepped out of the car. After which, Velayo got behind the wheel and sped off towards Alabang.

That's when things got hot.

According to investigator PO3 Carlito Nobleza, Velayo made her way to the South Luzon Expressway until for some reason, she rammed into one of the tollgates of the Bicutan exchange.

Instead of stopping, Velayo continued on towards the Pateros area as she caught the attention of traffic policemen, who immediately gave chase.

Velayo, however, managed to lose the cops.

But the woman took a wrong turn and ended up going back towards the South Luzon Expressway.

"I think she got lost," the investigator said.

At this point, enforcers of the Philippine National Construction Corp. and policemen from the nearby Parañaque police station 3 led by Insp. Arsenio Rodriguez joined the chase.

Velayo began driving toward Makati City, and refused to heed the repeated commands of the police for her to stop. This prompted the police to shoot one of the tires of the stolen cab.

Despite the flat rear tire, Velayo continued driving until she came to a stop near the Nichols interchange.

Police recovered a packet of shabu from her.

Investigators said she acted strangely and suspected that she was still under the influence of illegal drugs.

Nobleza said charges of car theft and possession of illegal drugs have been filed against Velayo.

Amok turns anger on 'askal,' nabbed

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

DOGS are man's best friends, so goes an adage. But when Sulpicio Bayno, 35, could not get anyone to engage in a duel with him, he turned to a helpless dog as his enemy.

A police report said Bayno, apparently drunk, roused residents of Veterans Village in Quezon City the other day by challenging anyone into a duel.

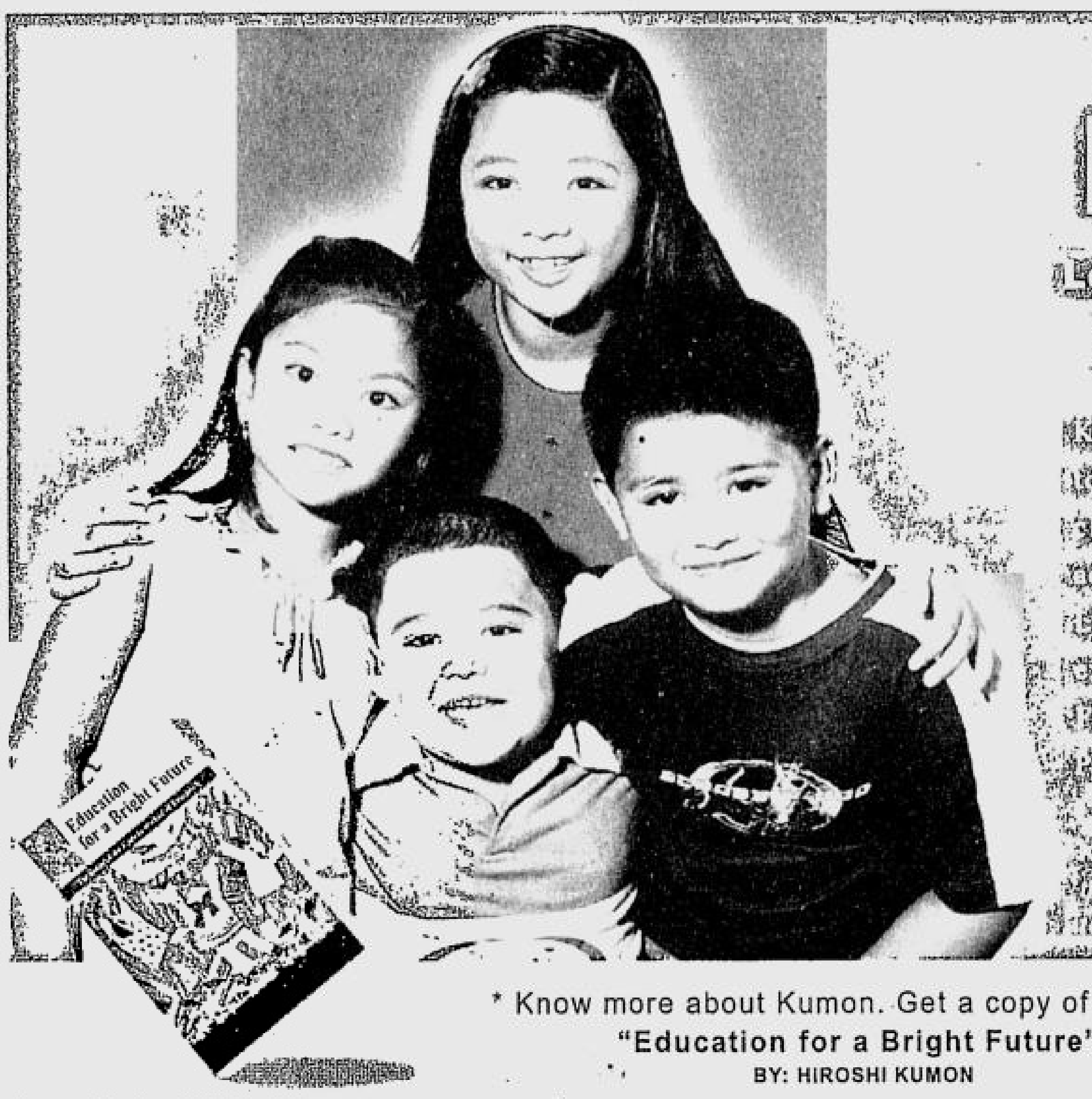
The report said Bayno was armed with a bolo and was going around the village challenging the men to fight him.

When no one accepted his challenge, Bayno turned his anger on a dog, commonly referred to as "askal" ("asong kalye" or a dog roaming the streets).

Cornered, the dog barked back, further enraging Bayno who hacked the dog repeatedly.

The dog's owner reported the incident to the barangay tanods who responded and subdued Bayno.

He now faces charges of cruelty to animals.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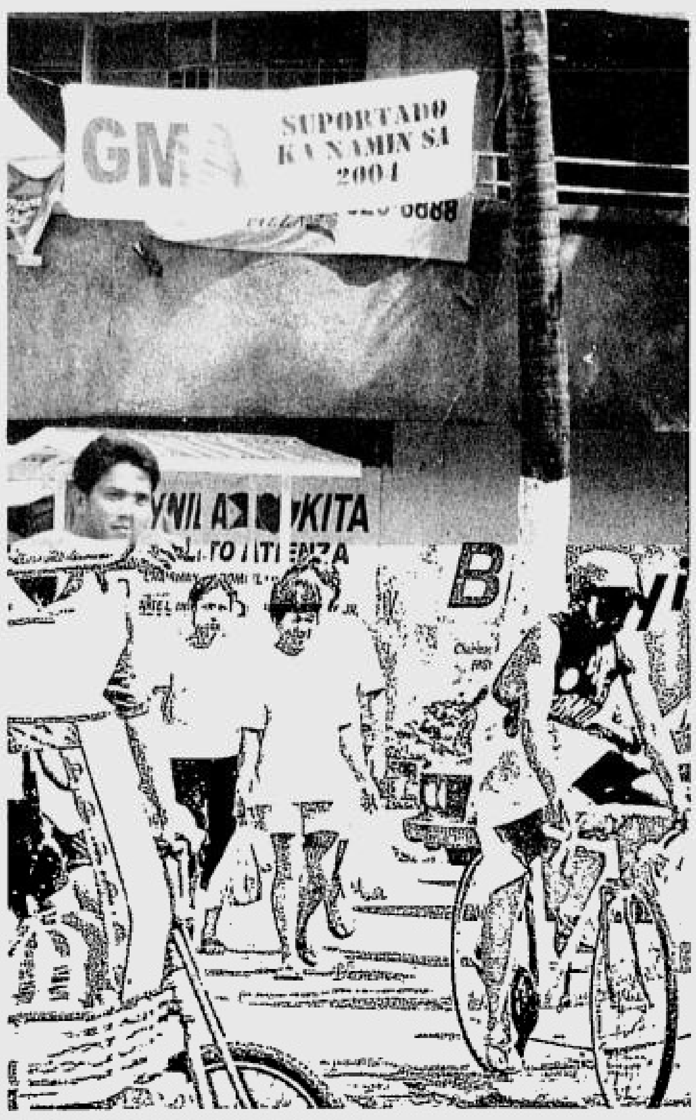

WHO'S HANGING THEM?
No one, it seems, knows who are responsible for the streamers proclaiming support for the presidential candidacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the elections next year along this stretch of Quirino Avenue in Manila. JESS YUSON

REVIVAL OF SECRET MARSHALS?

Cops to secure buses

By Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.

THE NEXT time armed robbers take a bus ride in Metro Manila, it might prove to be their last.

The National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) has disclosed plans of deploying armed policemen on public utility buses in the metropolis.

If plans push through, two-man police teams would be providing security to commuters starting next week, NCRPO Director Reynaldo Velasco told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said they were carefully studying the deployment since the concept brought to mind the dreaded "secret marshals" of Martial Law years.

The secret marshals, who were undercover policemen sent to ride shotgun in public utility vehicles, became notorious for executing robbery suspects.

A memorandum from the NCRPO said the planned deployment would "preempt criminals from doing their nefarious activities."

The deployment aims to prevent armed robbers, pickpockets and thieves from victimizing bus passengers.

Velasco said he already formed a committee to study how "to effectively implement the deployment."

He said he would be consulting bus operators and drivers to fine-tune the plan, which he hopes to launch by next week.

The NCRPO chief said the two-man police teams would be a mix of lawmen in uniform and in civilian clothes.

Aside from deploying lawmen on buses, Velasco said the NCRPO would also establish police desks on key points along national roads in the metropolis.

The deployment of policemen on public buses was a welcome development, said Claire de la Fuente, president of the Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association.

According to her, their organization suggested the deployment to the NCRPO.

Velasco said the plan was timely with the onset of the Christmas season when robbery and theft cases usually take an upswing.

In Quezon City, the Central Police District has listed Edsa, Commonwealth Avenue and Quirino Highway as high risk areas for passenger buses.

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Trader held for hijacked batteries

POLICE have arrested a Taiwanese businessman after a hijacked shipment of batteries worth P3 million was found in his warehouse in Meycauayan, Bulacan, last Friday.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, identified the businessman as Don Lim, 28. Lim manages a hardware and lumber store in Meycauyan.

Also arrested were Lim's seven workers in the warehouse.

Serapio said they had received reports that two container vans loaded with boxes of Eveready batteries were taken from Port Area in Manila.

The report said the two trucks hauling the container vans were seen proceeding to the Balintawak toll plaza and exiting the North Luzon Expressway at the Meycauayan exit.

Police later found the vans at Lim's warehouse in Barangay Saluysoy.

Serapio said the warehouse and Lim's hardware and store were located inside a 2,000-square meter lot owned by Crispin Lunaria, a barangay captain. Lunaria, however, said the lot is being rented by Mariano Lee, Lim's uncle.

In Pampanga, truck driver Roberto Traya and his helper Antonio Nunez sought the help of the Guagua police after their truck carrying some P500,000 worth of biscuits were hijacked by armed men on Aug. 28.

The victims said they were in Greenhills in San Juan, Metro Manila, when a man wearing a police uniform flagged them down and asked for their driver's licenses.

While the man in police uniform was questioning the victims, another man boarded the truck and sped off.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon

METROBRIEFS

Buy-bust arrests

THREE suspected drug dealers were arrested by the Makati City police in separate buy-bust operations the other night. They were identified as Robert Bagan, 32, of Barangay South Cembo, and Dickson Manuel, 26, and Ronel Salvacion, 26, both of Barangay Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati. Bagan was arrested first around 7 p.m. Two hours later, another team nabbed Manuel and Salvacion. They are now held at the city jail and are facing drug charges. *Alcuin Papa*

Road digging death

A DRUNKEN security guard died after he fell into a deep excavation site along Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) the other day. Police said Diego Bello, 34, had earlier gone into a drinking spree with co-workers near their construction site on Roces and Bagtikan Street. While ambling back to his quarters at the construction site around 2.30 a.m., police said Bello fell into a 10-foot deep digging. He was rushed to a hospital where he died upon arrival. *Alcuin Papa*

Barangays told: Form anti-drug councils

By Nelson F. Flores

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday urged barangay officials to organize their respective anti-drug abuse councils in a bid to further intensify the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

Lina, in a press statement, credited the existing Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (Badacs) for their help in the discovery of existing drug laboratories in several areas.

These include shabu laboratories found in the cities of Lipa, Las Piñas and Parañaque, and in Naic, Cavite, which were subsequently raided by members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the police.

He said the existing councils have enhanced the government's anti-drug campaign especially in monitoring the movements of drug traffickers and dependents.

He added that the councils also serve as the focal point through which various organizations and individuals work together in planning, implementing and evaluating drug abuse prevention programs.

Lina said the intensified anti-drug campaign has brought to fore the need to mobilize the councils.

DILG records showed that of the 41,956 barangays nationwide, more than 9,000 barangays have yet to organize their anti-drug council.

Traffic rerouted in key QC area

By Margaux Ortiz

SURPRISE! Surprise!

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has rerouted traffic at the intersection of Aurora Boulevard and Katipunan Avenue in a bid to improve the flow of vehicles in the area.

The rerouting centers on the removal of the barriers at the key intersection.

Vehicles coming from Marikina and other eastern Rizal towns like Cainta, Taytay and Antipolo, going to Cubao, and vice versa, used to take U-turns to get to their destinations.

Starting last Friday, the barrier which previously blocked Aurora Boulevard was removed to enable the free flow of traffic in the area, according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

He said the Katipunan Avenue service road will instead be blocked to motorists.

Vergel de Dios said the scheme will benefit the larger volume of vehicles which ply Aurora Boulevard.

"There are fewer vehicles which ply the Katipunan Avenue service road," Vergel de Dios said.

Vehicles passing through Katipunan Avenue going to Makati or Quezon City could use the flyover, Vergel de Dios said.

For motorists coming from Quezon City who want to go to Marikina, they could make a right turn to Aurora Boulevard and then a U-turn toward Marikina.

Big trucks going to Marikina from Quezon City should take the flyover, make a right turn to P. Tuazon then turn right at J.P. Rizal in the direction of Aurora Boulevard.

Vehicles going to Quezon City from Marikina could take the K-Mart road or turn right to the Katipunan service road.

Vergel de Dios said motorists should put in mind the all right turns and U-turns policy in the area.

He added that the MMDA had put up big signages to guide the motorists.

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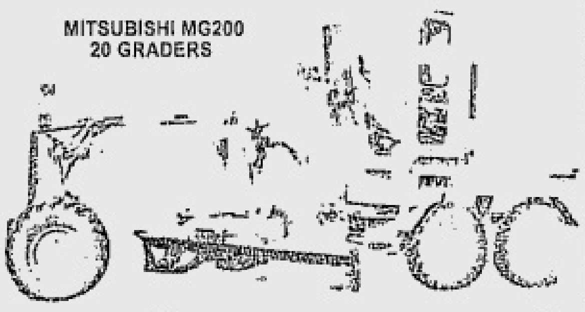

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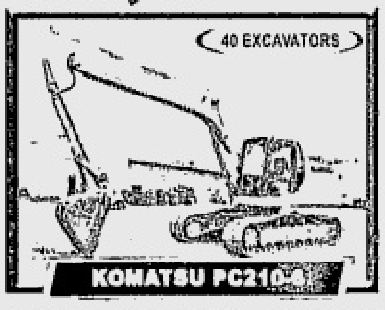

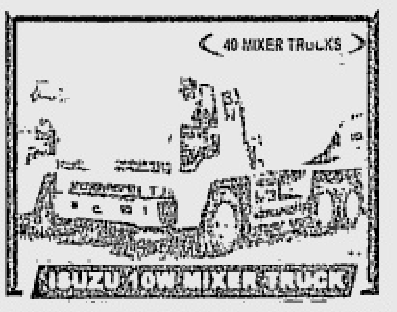

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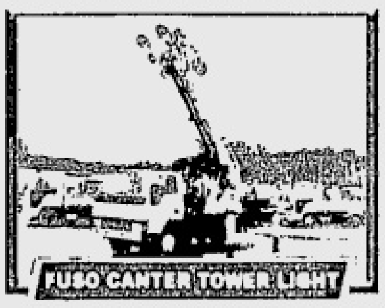

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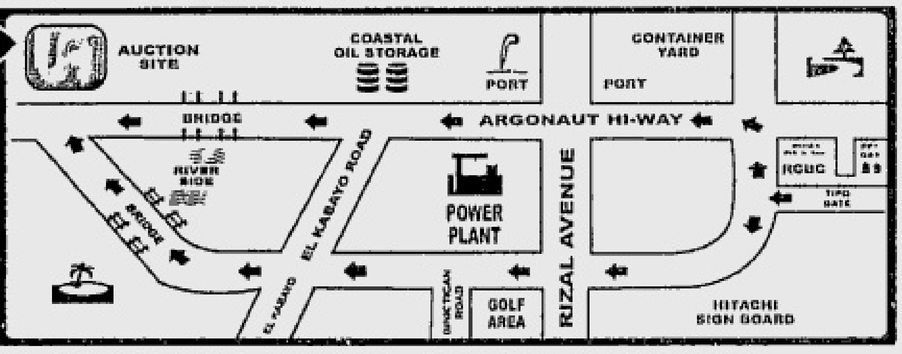

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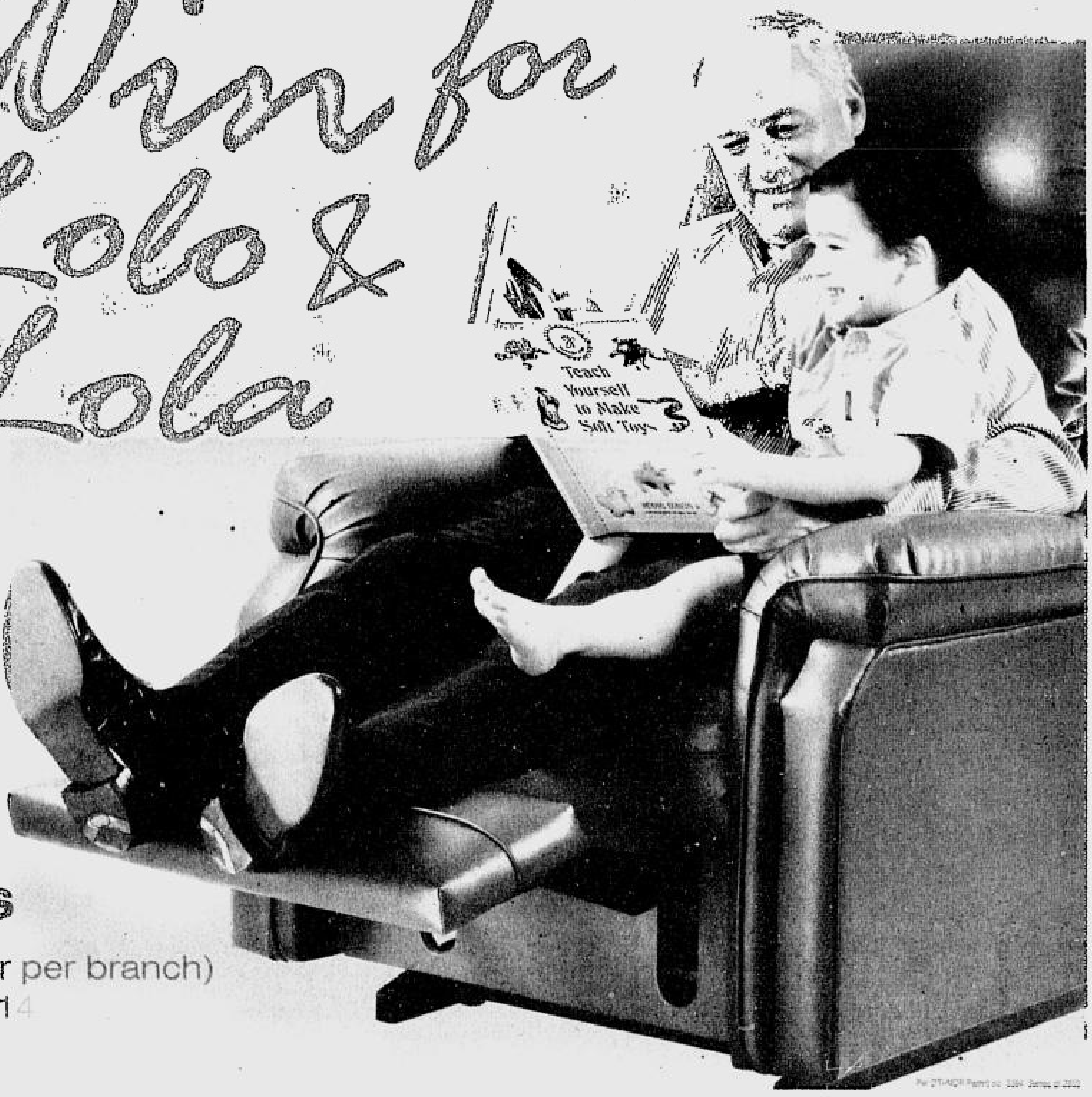
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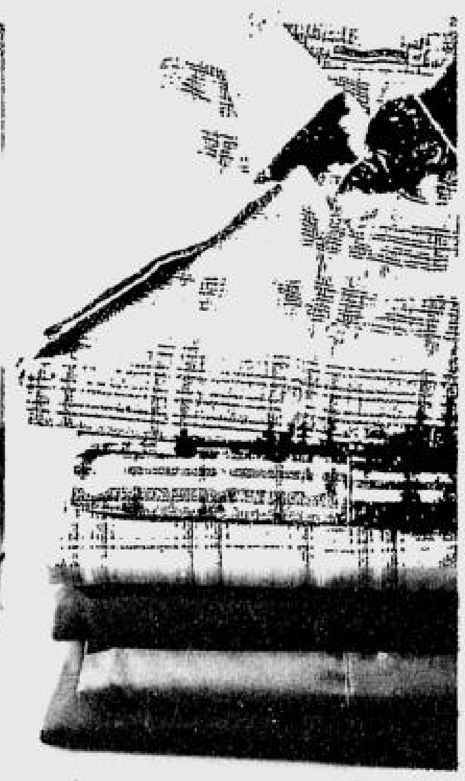

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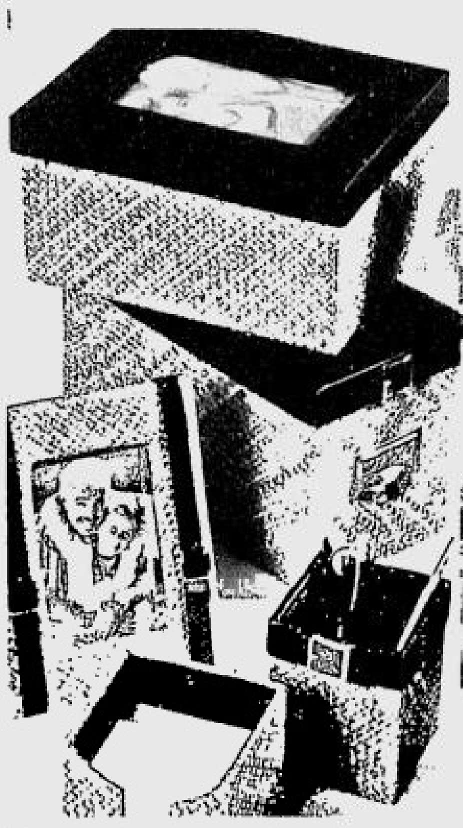

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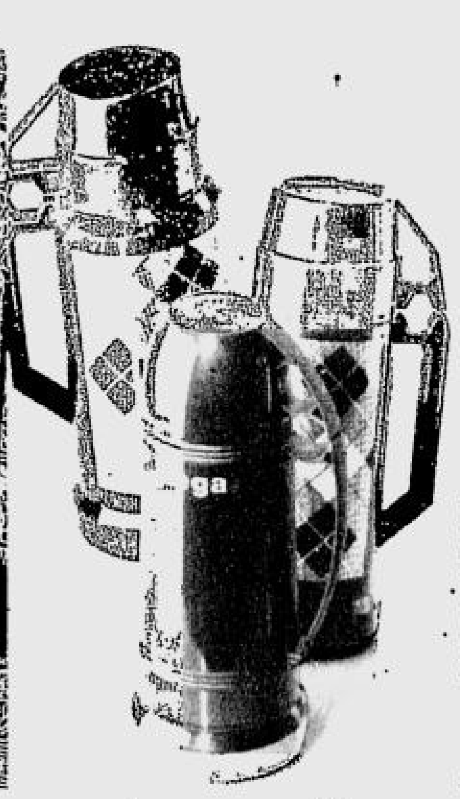

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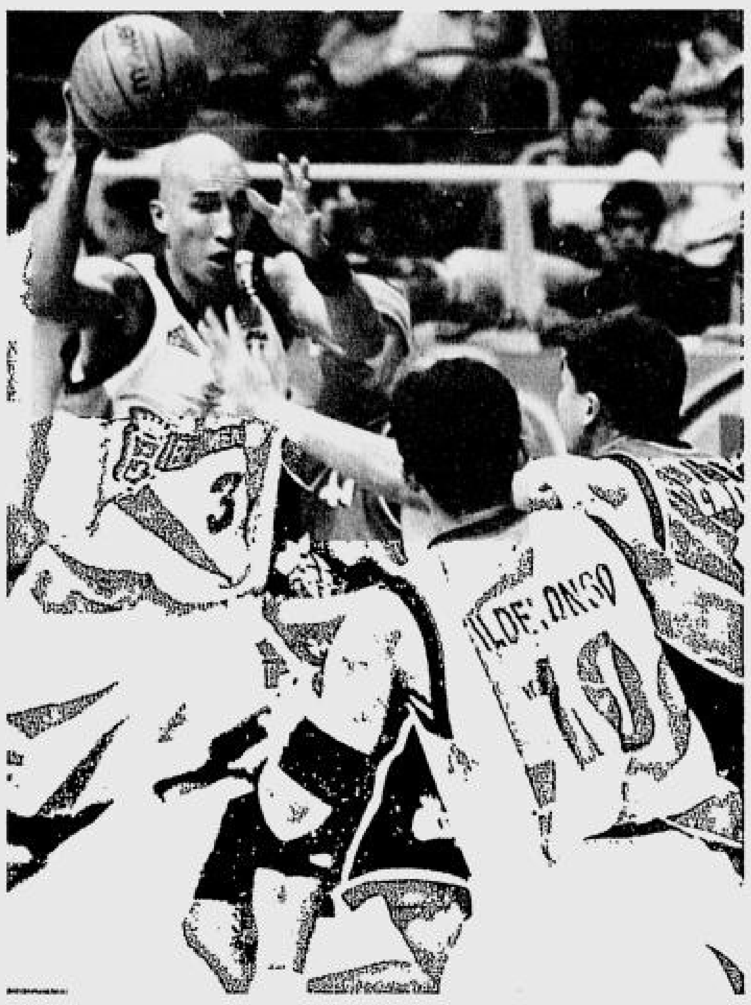

NIC Belasco of SMB looks for an open teammate. RUDY ESPERAS

Webber sparks Shell past TNT Phone Pals

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
5 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

SEDRIC Webber bucked a minor injury and carried the Shell Turbochargers to a 114-101 romp over the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

After riding the bench with a hurting leg for most of the first period, Webber came out smoking in the next three quarters as the Turbochargers easily hurdled the Phone Pals, who were handled anew by American Bill Bayno.

In the second game, Romel Adducul fired a three-pointer as Barangay Ginebra nipped San Miguel Beer, 85-82.

It was the second time this season that the Turbochargers beat the Phone Pals in a conference opener. But the first time they did it in the All-Filipino Cup, the Turbochargers dropped their next seven assignments on the way to an early exit from the playoffs.

"I hope it wouldn't happen this time. I think with Sedric (Webber) around, we can give it our best shot to qualify in the playoffs. Although it's too early to tell, our immediate goal is to hit the semis first," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo.

The Turbochargers placed no higher than 10th in the last two conferences and no higher than seventh dating back to last season. Their best finish so far was third in the 2001 Governors Cup behind Sta. Lucia and San Miguel Beer.

Ronquillo, a member of the Basketball Coaches Association of the Philippines, later said he has nothing against Bayno, whom the Phone Pals tapped after interim coach Ariel

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- Late foldup shatters Rosales' brave bid /A27

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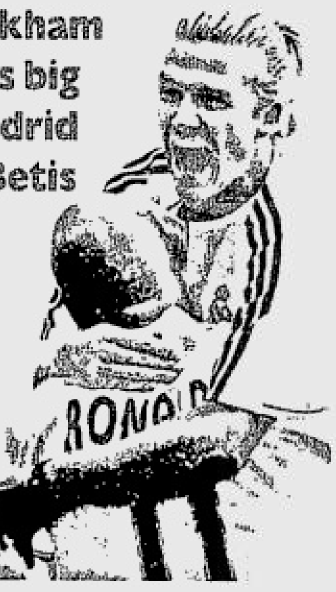


- Beckham scores big as Madrid nips Betis /A30

- French runners win; White pulls out /A31

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

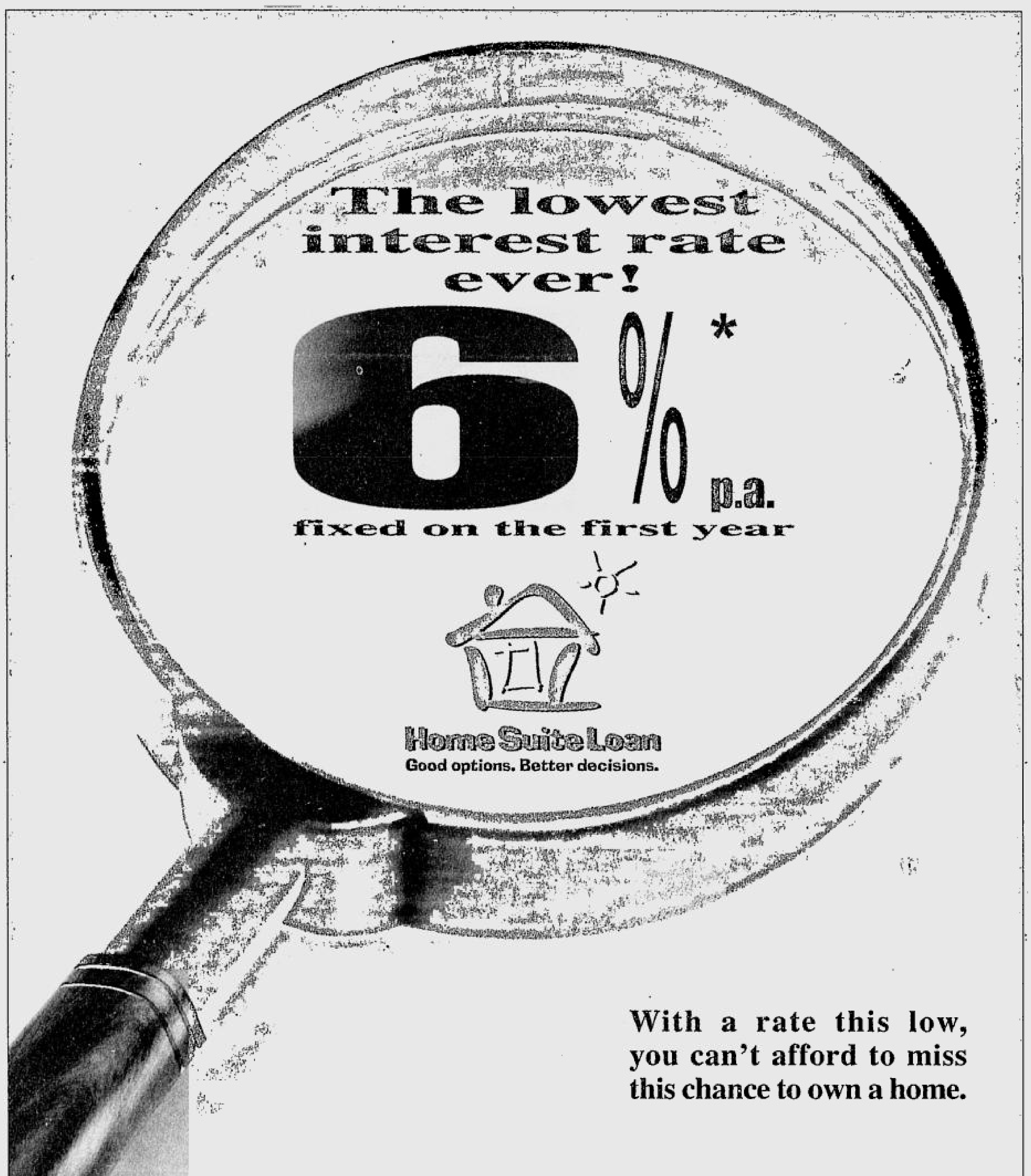
TENNIS: US Open 2003; a.m. (r-7 p.m.) and 11 p.m. Star Sports—Fourth round action continues in New York.

BASKETBALL: Tournament of the Americas, 7 p.m.; IBC 13 and Solar Sports; 9 p.m.; Solar Sports—Catch the third place game as well as the championship match

WNBA First Round Playoffs; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports; 4 p.m.; ESPN—The real season begins for the ladies

Bucks vs Pacers, Game 5, 2000 Eastern First Round; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Indiana holds off visiting Milwaukee to win the series in this fifth and deciding game. Indiana's Reggie Miller hits for a career playoff high of 41 points.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice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Bata whips Swede, enters world masters q'finals

FILIPINO Efren "Bata" Reyes opened his campaign in the World Pool Masters on a resounding note, beating Sweden's Tom Storm Sunday to advance to the quarterfinals at the Hotel Zuiderduin, in Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands.

Reyes, winner of the 1999 World Pool championship in Cardiff, Wales, defeated Storm, 8-3, in one of the first eight matches of the elite 16-man invitational tournament among the world's finest cue masters.

But Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the only other Filipino in the fold, was not as lucky, losing 6-8 to the host country's Nick Van Den Berg.

The 49-year-old Reyes thus arranged a quarterfinal showdown with 2002 World Pool and 1997 World Pool Masters champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland of the United States.

The perennial favorite Strickland barged into the last-8 with an 8-5 victory over Niels "Terminator" Feijen of the Netherlands.

In other matches, 2001 World Pool champion Mika Immonen of Finland defeated four-time masters titlist Ralf " Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, 8-5; 1999 champion Alex Lely of the Netherlands downed Steve Davis of England, 8-3; Hui-Kai Hsia of Chinese-Taipei clobbered Niclas Bergendorff of Sweden, 8-1; reigning world pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany whipped Rico Diks of the Netherlands, 8-6, while Tony "Tornado" Drago of Malta outclassed current Canadian 9-ball champ Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, 8-3.

Other featured pairing in the last of 8 are Immonen vs Lely, Hsia vs Hohmann and Drago vs Van den Berg.

The race-to-8 event will use the straight knockout single elimination format with the winner breaking. Players will lag to determine who breaks first.

A total pot prize of $62,000 is at stake with the champion pocketing $20,000. Runner-up gets $10,000, while the other semifinalists receive $5,000 each.

Reyes, the 2003 BCA Hall of Fame awardee known as "The Magician," finished second in the Pechacuer 9-ball in Hollywood, Los Angeles California and the Big Apple challenge in Queens, New York. He won in the just concluded 2nd Annual Gabriel's Las Vegas in Riviera Casino.

Bustamante recently emerged the $50,000 winner of the International Challenge of Champions at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, USA. *Marlon Bernardino*

Eagles gain semis; NU stalls La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

Games on Thursday
(Araneta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—UE vs NU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UE vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Srs)
6 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST (Jrs)

IT'S BACK to normal for Ateneo but certainly not for La Salle.

Three days after getting ambushed by National University, defending champion Ateneo rebounded with a close 56-53 decision over University of the Philippines and secured a Final Four berth in the UAAP men's basketball championship yesterday at the Loyola Gym.

The Eagles leaned on the clutchshooting of Wesley Gonzales to turn back the hard-fighting Maroons and regain the solo lead with a 9-3 win-loss card.

But the Archers remained in the doldrums after bowing to the Maroons Thursday, taking an 80-59 whipping from NU in the second game that raised the qualifying hopes of Adamson and Santo Tomas.

The Archers dropped to 6-5 behind Far Eastern (8-3) and University of the East (7-3), while enhancing the chances of Adamson (5-6) and UST (4-6) to enter the semis via the backdoor.

Already out of the running with a 3-9 record, the victory still tasted sweet for the Bulldogs as they avenged their 85-92 setback in overtime to the Archers in the first round.

Playing without its old fire and grit, La Salle trailed most of the way.

It was the first time since the 1997 season that La Salle lost back-to-back games and the first since Franz Pumaren took over as head coach in 1998, the year La Salle started a four-year reign.

Ateneo coach Joel Banal said Ateneo's fifth straight trip to the final four was no big deal. "Making the Final Four isn't what is expected from us," he said.

"It's always difficult to play a team playing without pressure, but we were mentally tougher today," Banal added, referring to NU's 76-62 shock win over the Eagles.

The Maroons, who posted an 80-70 victory over La Salle, waged a torrid stand against the Eagles with Rob Hornancin, a Brazilian, even giving UP a 44-42 lead.

But the 6-foot-3 Gonzales came to Ateneo's rescue, firing three successive three-pointers as the Eagles opened a 55-48 advantage.

Rookie Marvin Cruz, hero of UP's win over La Salle, capped another UP rally with a triple, 53-55, and the pro-Ateneo crowd looked in disbelief as Magnum Membrere muffed a jumper, giving the Maroons possession with four ticks left.

Scores:

Second Game (Srs)

ATENEO 56—Bugla 10, Membrere 9, Gonzales 9, Tenorio 8, Fonacier 6, Alvarez 6, Kramer 5,Escalona 3, Tiu 0, Arao 0, Intal 0.

UP 53—Cruz 11, David 10, Bornancin 8, Reyes 7, Ibañes 7, Almeda 4, Buyco 2, Cervantes 2, Tabique 2, Agbayani 0, Ferrer 0.

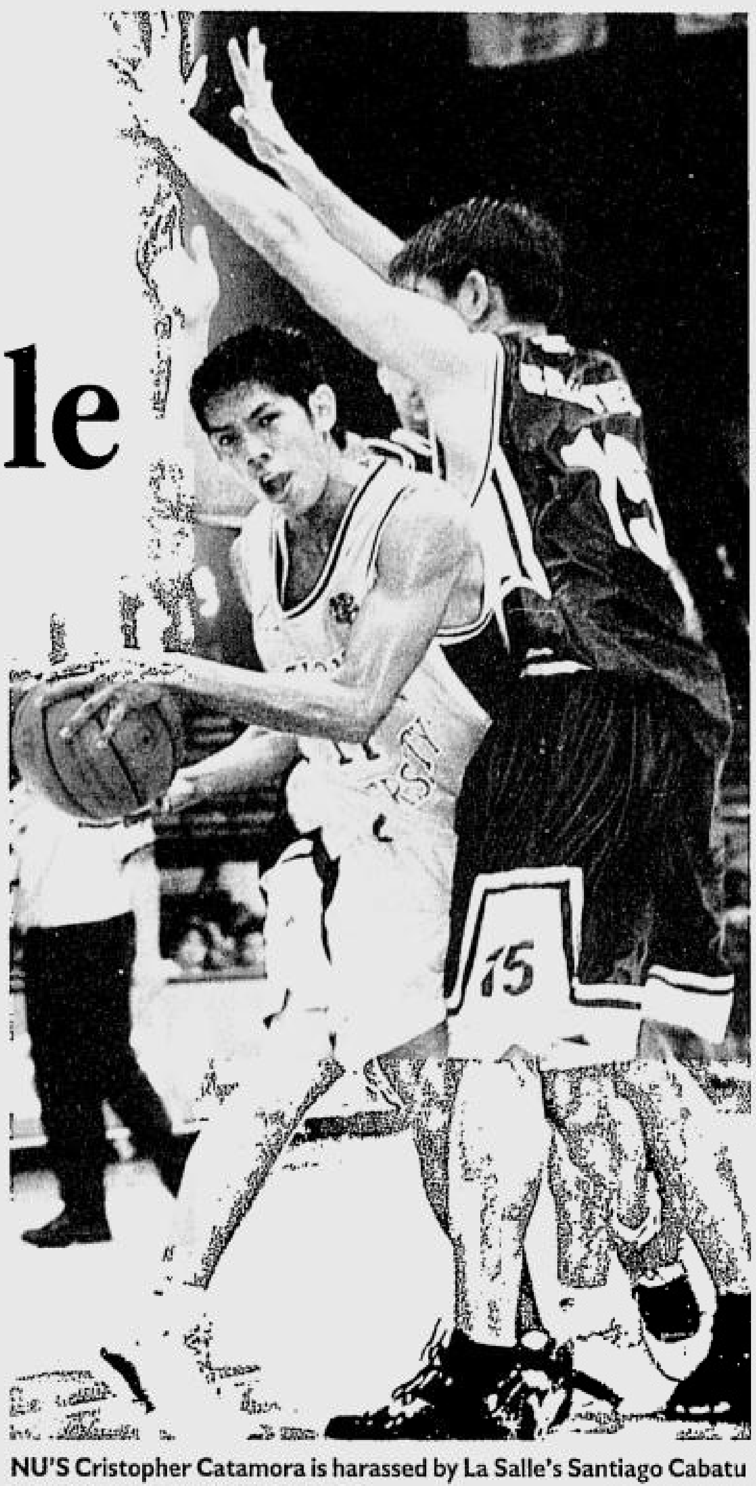
Quarters: 16-12, 29-27, 40-38, 56-53

Third Game (Srs)

NU 80—Cajayon 20, Mendoza 19, Baguion 12, Miclat 8, Tolentino 5, Balljon 5, Malcontento 4, Catamora 4, Mollena 0.

LA SALLE 59—Casio 14, Gaco 11, Cardona 7, Sharma 8, Yeo 6, Benitez 5, Arana 4, Gatchalian 2, Cabatu 0, Ramos 0, Tang 0.

Quarters: 18-20, 39-35, 60-46, 80-59.



NU'S Cristopher Catamora is harassed by La Salle's Santiago Cabatu Jr. in the second half of their game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

US, Argentina fives nail down berths in Olympic caging

JASON Kidd drives to the basket past Roberto Hatton of Puerto Rico. AFP

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—The United States and Argentina booked tickets to the Athens Games with semifinal wins in the Fiba Olympic basketball qualifying tournament of the Americas Saturday and will meet Sunday for the gold medal.

The US remained unbeaten in nine games with an 87-71 victory over Puerto Rico, which was marred by a shoving match between Kenyon Martin and Daniel Santiago and a near-fight between Tracy McGrady and Eddie Casiano.

The US partially erased the bitter memory of finishing sixth in last year's World Championships.

They can fully eradicate it Sunday with a win over Argentina, who earlier claimed an Olympic spot with an 88-72 win over Canada.

While the US team, stocked with National Basketball Association talent, has been a crowd favorite here, with an Olympic place on the line there was no room for sentiment.

Puerto Rico was within striking distance in the second quarter when play got ugly.

Jermaine O'Neal elevated for a dunk and was pushed to the floor by Santiago, who quickly adopted an apologetic stance.

However, Martin intervened and shoved Santiago before the referees broke things up.

After the US extended its lead to double digits, the final seconds of the first half became chaos. McGrady harassed Casiano as he dribbled upcourt, getting away with a couple of fouls. He stripped Casiano as he knocked him to the floor, batting the ball into the backcourt.

As time expired, McGrady and Casiano got into it and players from both teams came off the benches.

Earlier, Emanuel Ginobili of the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs scored 20 of his 26 points in the decisive first half for Argentina.

- Solar Sports will telecast the US-Argentina finals today "live" at 10 a.m., with a replay at 7 p.m. on IBC-13/Solar Sports. The Argentina-Canada game for third place will be at 9 p.m. on Solar Sports.AFP

Cards try to catch last bus to Final 4

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—CSB vs Mapua (jrs)
1:15 p.m.—CSB vs Mapua (srs)
3 p.m.—PCU vs UPHR (jrs)
4:45 p.m.—PCU vs UPHR (srs)

MAPUA aims to complete the elite Final Four cast when the Cardinals meet the College of St. Benilde Blazers today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

A victory by the Cardinals (7-5) in their 1:15 p.m. duel with the Blazers (4-8) automatically closes the semifinal door on San Beda (6-7) and Perpetual Help-Rizal (5-7).

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC-R	9	4
Letran	8	5
JRU	8	5
Mapua	7	5
SBC	6	7
UPHR	5	7
CSB	4	8
PCU	3	9

The UPHR Altas tangle with the Philippine Christian University Dolphins (3-9) in the other senior match.

San Sebastian, Letran and Jose Rizal secured the first three semifinal seats last week with the Stags (9-4) in the best position to finish in the top two and clinch a twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four.

The Knights and the Heavy Bombers share second place at 8-5.

Mapua coach Horacio Lim vowed not to take the Blazers lightly despite enjoying the psychological edge in having dumped the 2000 NCAA titlists, 83-63, in the first round.

"We need this win badly. If we let our guards down, there's still a chance to get into the semifinals but we cannot earn a twice-to-beat advantage anymore," said Lim. *June Navarro*

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Beggars in flashy cars

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

NOTHING really wrong with the Philippine Sports Commission being fully engrossed in raising funds. It's the nature of this agency to provide funds for RP sports.

Well, as our lost, limping government is perennially broke, the PSC, mainly its Big, Big Boss cannot help but beg around.

There will be no gold medals without proper financial support, the PSC had wanted it known.

This urgent call, you bet, sent backers digging deep into their pockets.

Yes, Philippine sports, despite its horrible showing, has never been lacking in willing donors.

One call from First Gentleman Mike Arroyo did send sports philanthropists rushing to Malacañang to initially pledge P24 million-and more if necessary.

***

There's one hitch in this noble begging drive, though.

The PSC, the way some top staffers have been conducting their public lives, definitely did not appear pretty hard up.

Beggars don't go around in flashy cars.

They don't treat lavishly, wine and dine reporters mainly to gain favorable media mileage.

Oh, forget what had been said about lardy lifestyle that leads to excess poundage being a main event in the beggar agency.

The piggy photos in the sports pages speak how they must've been worshipping in the altar of excess.

Remember that column we did a week ago to air growing public suspicion of financial fraud in the PSC, based on the proliferation of flashy cars in the agency's tree-shaded parking lot at the Rizal Memorial Sports Center?

It drew immediate action, a call for lifestyle check on some PSC staffers no less, thanks to Rep. Monico Puentevella, himself a former PSC commissioner.

Repeat: we did that column in response to public clamor, mainly from the PSC rank-and-file employees and people from ill-fed national sports associations.

***

Predictably, it drew a blanket denial.

Nobody among them owns a brand-new car, exclaimed the PSC media chief, a cute, cool-eyed, cream-skinned running dog, heir to one of Manila's noble leaders.

Actually, this generous, ever reliable errand boy called us up the day after his initials appeared among those suspected of parading new cars at the PSC car lot.

"Mine is just a second hand CRV," said he, "and it's from my cousin."

Noted, no need to worry, he was assured.

"Please, don't mention anymore I had called you up, *pinagtatawanan lang nila kasi ako*," he begged.

We did not mention his name and the fact that he had called up to explain.

We have to say all these because the poor fellow did not only identify himself in a succeeding statement. He also named the other PSC staffers, who will henceforth be subjected to a lifestyle check, thanks to the flashy cars they ride around.

This media dog, by the way, went as far as to say he also got dollars from the US to buy his CRV.

Next time, he may have to break his kids' piggy bank, or sell peanuts on the sidewalk.

Anyway, take note that Rep. Puentevella did not buy that line about nobody among the PSC staffers owning a brand-new car.

In the first place, a vehicle does not have to be glossy and brand-new in order to be luxurious.

As government employees, these PSC staffers are expected to live honorably, beyond suspicion of people from whose taxes they get their salaries.

***

That should momentarily put this case to rest.

But while we are at it, we take time out to mention how PSC chair Eric Buhain had reportedly accused some officials of his agency of providing media with information on alleged anomalies.

According to a report by Ronnie Nathanielsz in the Manila Standard, one of the biggest anomalies concerned security and janitorial services which cost a whopping P6 million per month, double the amount under the previous chairman.

We had already mentioned here the non-remittance of PSC employees' contributions to the GSIS and the fact that the sports agency has been operating on a huge deficit.

There were other wishy-washy accounting in sponsorships and trips to international events, topped by the one to the Busan Asian Games.

Said Nathanielsz: "King of Travel, which handled travel arrangements for the RP delegation, claimed they have not been paid in full; while the PBA used another travel agency, Ark Travel, for the basketball team since it was $60 cheaper (per head) than the agency contracted by the PSC."

Insiders, said the same report, had confirmed the overpricing, even as they charged Buhain with having 31 people in his entourage to the Busan Games last September.

We saw for ourselves how these "relatives" had hung around him, but we thought they were less.

There were more anomalies listed, but we stop now for lack of space.

Late foldup shatters Rosales' brave bid

ROSALES: Tough test. FILE PHOTO

JENNY Rosales sent two balls into the water for a quadruple-bogey seven on the 16th hole just as she was shooting it out for the lead Saturday (Sunday in Manila) in the LPGA State Farm Classic in Springfield, Illinois.

The disaster led to a 73 and dropped Rosales six shots behind the steady hitting Candie Kung of Taiwan, who kept the lead by one stroke over England's Laura Davies with one round left in the $1.2-million tournament.

Rosales, playing with Kung and Korean Hee Won Han in the final group, was just a stroke off the lead at 13 under with three holes to go when she lost her concentration on the par-3 16th, the Rail course's toughest test with a pin tucked right behind a lake

Suddenly losing her touch, Rosales put two balls in the water and left the green with a horrifying 7.

Still in a bad mood, the American Eye Center-sponsored Rosales bogeyed the next hole and eventually fell into a large group in ninth place at 208.

Kung carded a 71 for 202. Davies moved up to second with a 66 for 203 while Han remained in contention with a 69-204.

Also in Rosales' group were No. 2 money winner Se Ri Pak and Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin who both submitted 69s, Kim Young and Pat Hurst.

According to J-Ro's mom Lourdes, Jenny lost her cool due to the long wait on the 16th tee.

"She told me that she lost her focus after the long delay," said Mrs. Rosales.

In Fukuoka, Japan, Frankie Miñoza sustained his comeback by placing 17th after a two-under 70 in the final round of the Hisamitsu-KBC Augusta tournament at the Keya Golf Club.

Miñoza birdied two of the last four holes to finish at 279, 10 strokes behind eventual winner Soushi Tajima.

Miñoza, who tied for ninth in the Sun Chlorella Classic for his first top 10 finish in two years early last month, pocketed about P590,000 and moved up to 66th from 71st in the money list. *Jong Arcano*

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Hosts dominate bridge Friendship Pairs

FILIPINOS dominated yesterday's Friendship Pairs matches of the 42nd Pacific Asia Bridge Federation championships at the Dusit Hotel in Makati.

Carmen Tuazon and Singaporean partner Jane Choo scored 129.78 over the Filipino pair of Mercy Tuazon and Cristina Ozamiz as members of the organizing Philippine Tournament Bridge Association provided the first top finishes yet for the Philippines in the tough multination championships.

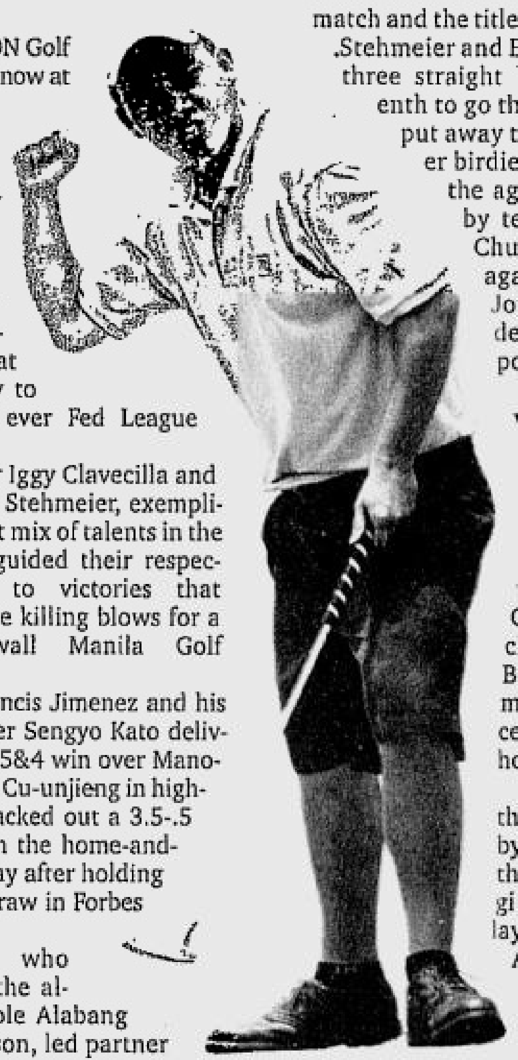
In the Yuchengco Cup, one of the side events of the 10-day matches, the Philippines' Gerry Alquiroz ranked second in the standings behind Chinese-Taipei's Chang Wei-ming.

Indonesia leads Chinese-Taipei in the Bridge Open Match, with Japan close behind in third place.

Powerhouse defending champion China shows the way in the Ladies Match, with Indonesia and New Zealand running second and third.

Alabang defeats MGC for Fed League crown

By Jong Arcano



King Stehmeier birdies the 10th. JESS YUSON

THE FEDERATION Golf League trophy is now at Alabang.

Reaping the dividends of a major manpower buildup, Alabang overpowered defending champion Manila Golf Club at home yesterday to clinch its first ever Fed League championship.

Senior player Iggy Clavecilla and the young King Stehmeier, exemplifying the perfect mix of talents in the Alabang fold, guided their respective tandems to victories that proved to be the killing blows for a pushed-to-the-wall Manila Golf side.

And with Francis Jimenez and his Japanese partner Sengyo Kato delivering a rousing 5&4 win over Manoling Chan-Dodo Cu-unjieng in high-low, Alabang hacked out a 3.5-.5 victory to clinch the home-and-away series a day after holding MGC to a 2-2 draw in Forbes Park.

Clavecilla, who was added to the already formidable Alabang lineup this season, led partner Rolly Castro past Richie Garcia-Philip Romualdez, 3&2, in best-ball. The reigning national seniors champ clinched the win in style, hitting the green on the par-5 16th with his second shot then two-putted for birdie.

Stehmeier and his partner Ray Escuadro then played the executioner's role, taking the scramble point with a seven-under effort through 15 holes for a 4&3 result against Alex Prieto-John Papa that was all Alabang needed to take the match and the title.

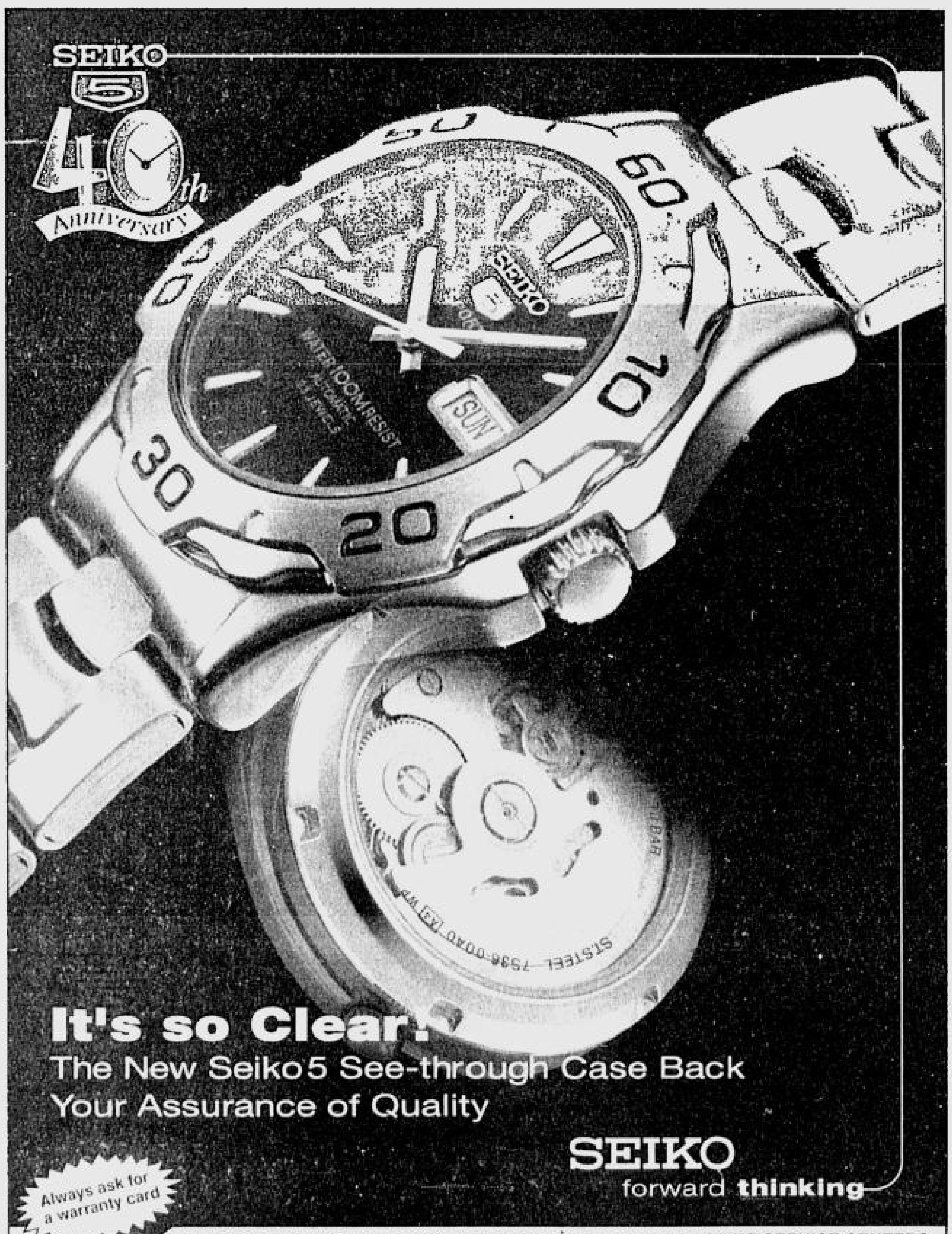
Stehmeier and Escuadro conspired for three straight birdies from the seventh to go three up at the turn and put away their rivals with another birdie on the 14th. That left the aggregate match played by teammates Seve Roxas Chua and Edwin Arcilla against Jojo Guingona-Jovanni Chuounsu who decided to split the point.

"Even from the start, we felt that with the strength of the team, we can win the title. This is all about team effort and I think we deserve to win," said team captain Caloy Coscolluela as he joined club president Boy de Borja and the other members of the team in a celebration at the clubhouse.

He also paid tribute to the contributions made by the other members of the Alabang squad—Luigi Tabuena, Buddy Velayo, Vic Guzman, Edwin Arcilla, Pete Cervantes, Jimbop Iñigo, Rolly Castro, Jimmy General, Babes Guilatco and Jun Galindez.

Alabang broke through after an almost four-month grind. It could only place second to eventual eliminations topnotcher Forest Hills in its group but kept its focus until the very end.

Facing Eastridge in the quarterfinals, Alabang rallied to advance before claiming the tournament's biggest shocker by ousting Forest Hills in the semifinals.



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Webber sparks Shell . . .

From page A25

Vanguardia was suspended for five games in the aftermath of a controversial game in the recent Invitationals.

The BCAP openly criticized the hiring of Bayno in the past, pointing out that the American has robbed Filipino coaches of a job in the league.

"I have nothing personal against Bill (Bayno). It's not a matter of personalities anyway. We have a job to do and that's exactly what we did," said Ronquillo.

Shell's razor-sharp plays in the first half caught the Phone Pals by surprise as the Turbo Chargers zoomed to a 57-40 halftime lead.

TNT import Damian Cantrell, saddled with three early fouls, was hardly a factor in the first half although he went on to finish with a game-high 34 points after shooting 16 in the final quarter with Shell already beyond recall.

Webber, who scored 11 in the third period, finished with 28. Tony de la Cruz almost matched that with 26, Chris Jackson contributed 18, Chris Calaguio added 14 and Eddie Laure had 12.

Asi Taulava also fired 26 for TNT with Jimmy Alapag scoring 19 and Harvey Carey 12.

Scores:

SHELL 114 —Webber 28, Dela Cruz 26, Jackson 18, Calaguio 14, Laure 12, Singson 9, Bajar 5, Marzan 2, Hrabak 0.

TALK N TEXT 101 — Cantrell 34, Taulava 26, Alapag 19, Carey 12, Pablo 4, Fran 2, Telan 2, Belano 2, Ravena 0.

Quarters: 29-25, 57-40, 82-68, 114-101

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SPORTSWATCH

Torre, Antonio vying in Leyte chessfest

THE COUNTRY'S top woodpushers, led by Grandmasters Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor, are vying for the lion's share of the P114,000 prize pot in the Leyte Landing Open Grandmasters chess challenge slated Oct. 15-18 at the MacArthur Hotel in Tacloban City. Aside from the Philippines' three GMs, also seeing action are Asian Zonal champion and Grandmaster-candidate Ronald Dableo and International Masters Petronio Roca, Chito Garma and Richard Bitoon, among others. The 24-year-old Dableo, whose father is a Leyteño, starts as the sentimental favorite to win the P50,000 top purse, said Gov. Remedios L. Petilla. The tournament is part of Petilla's "Wow Leyte" drive and commemorates the return to the Philippines of US Gen. Douglas McArthur in Leyte in 1944. For inquiries, call Dr. Gil Asoy at 0920-829-1086 or project director Mario Rebano at 0919-268-0659 or the NCFP executive director Gene Poliarco at 435-1113/14.

With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino

Pacquiao fight Forum headliner

MATTERS pertaining to Manny Pacquiao's coming mega-fight, a PBA contract dispute and the Asean age-group swimming championships in San Pablo, Laguna are to be discussed in tomorrow's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion. To talk about Pacquiao's Nov. 15 non-title bout against Marco Barrera is Rod Nazario, the Filipino champion's business manager. Veteran forward Bong Hawkins makes an update on his contract row with FedEx. Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa) president Chito Ilagan, secretary-general Chito Rivera, Pasa technical committee chair Greg Colminares, RP team coach Guy Concepcion and San Pablo Mayor Florante Aquino have been invited to elaborate on the Sept. 11-13 age group tournament. The public sports program, sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor, will now be telecast over Destiny Cable Channel 61, also on Tuesdays at 10 p.m.

Beam/Zesto-O footrace set

RUNNING as a way to keep oneself healthy will be the theme when the Manila leg of the Beam/Zesto-O Patakbong Pinoy kicks off on Sept. 28. "Filipinos have inherent skills in running and this is one event that we are supporting fully in line with the government's sports program," said Nelson Macaraig of organizing Media Runners and Sports Promotions and Jonel Promotions. "Through our mass-based approach, we hope to lure people from all walks of life to compete, not only for honors but also for a healthy, family-centered and youth-inspired lifestyle which our sponsors represent." After the Manila leg, the Beam/Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy will scout key cities and provinces like Batangas, Laguna, Bulacan, Zambales and Cavite for venues. The event will eventually proceed to other places in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao on a monthly basis. Organizers are offering cash prizes for the winners in the different divisions.

Kaya FC draws RP U-23

NEWLY crowned Samsung and Lupoy Cup champion Kaya FC drew with the Philippine Under-23 football squad, 1-1, recently at the Philsports pitch in Pasig City. Kaya's Australian striker Leigh Gunn sent the ball into the back of the Nationals' net in the 82nd minute to even the score, as Kaya relied mostly on individual skills and experience to survive the Nationals' relentless counter-attacks. U-23 striker Ariel Zerrudo had sent the Nationals 1-up on a goal from a cross by Jeffrey Liman 20 minutes after the break. Jeremias Jiao could have sealed Kaya's fate but he shot wide from inside the box a few minutes later. U-23 head coach Aris Caslib was pleased with the result and had fine words for his keeper, Michael Casas of San Beda. The friendly served as part of RP U-23's preparation for the SEA Games in December.

U-19 elevens ready for battle

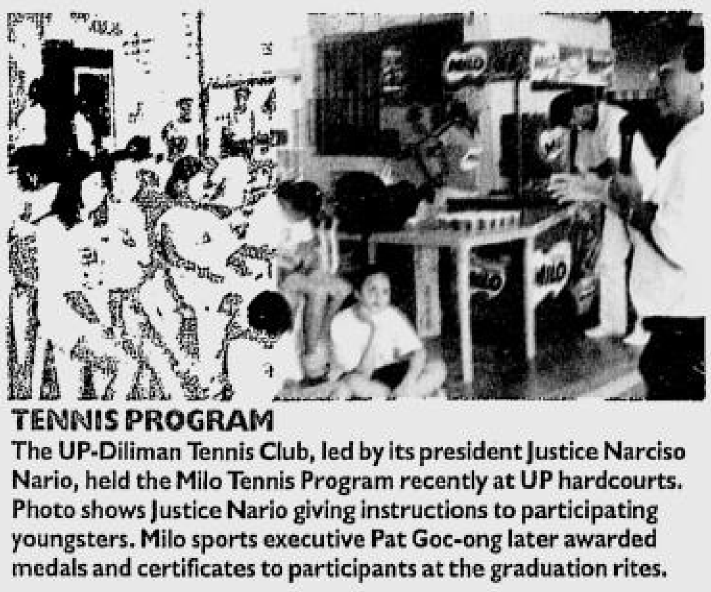
A TIGHT fight for the Adidas Under-19 football championship looms in October as competing teams prepare for the tournament set in Iloilo City. NCR Football Association head coach Lloyd Lim said he has chosen eight of his starters and is pleased with the readiness of the players. Mari Mendezona, secretary general of Negros Occidental's football association, and team manager Tony Agustin and head coach Norman Fegidero said their squad, the West Negros College Squad, also "had a fair chance" to win the tournament. WNC counts on stars like Kenneth Doloso, Billy Batayola, Siegfried Apurado, Jeremie Calvo and Boy Caluyo. The squad will be reinforced by players from La Salle Bacolod and Don Bosco.

Ray Showdown entries accepted today

OFFICIAL entries to the Ray Showdown 7-Stag National Derby must be submitted today at Roligon Mega Cockpit, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. To be hosted by cockpit manager Danny Ty and Romero Yu, the event's 3-stag first round eliminations will start at 2 p.m. tomorrow. The second round is on Thursday while the championship is set on Sept. 6. "Participants may choose to field an entry either in the first or second round of eliminations," Ty explained. For an entry fee of P18,000, the guaranteed prize—originally pegged at P1 million—may rise to P2 million due to the big number of entries. For inquiries call 833-2275 and 833-1638. Meanwhile, cockers and breeders who are looking for a good deal may join the Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby on Sept. 16, 18 and 20.

NCA stagfest kicks off today

RENOWNED cocker-breeders, including past winners of the prestigious World Slasher Cup, are taking part in the opening leg of the National Cockers Association 7-Stag Derby today and Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum. The star-studded affair will be hosted by the country's cockfighting luminaries led by former NCA Cocker of the Year Mario Villamor, who is staging his first derby at the Big Dome after a long absence; Ruel Ricafort and Jun Santiago. The entry list includes Nene Araneta of Thunderbird fame, Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina), James Chiongbian (King Cobra/ Sarangani), Biboy Enriquez (Firebird), Claude Bautista and Ito Ynares (R&B Farm Binangonan), William Go (Gold Cup Jed and Joy), Dicky Lim (Winslet) and Fran Berin (Mulawin).



TENNIS PROGRAM
The UP-Diliman Tennis Club, led by its president Justice Narciso Nario, held the Milo Tennis Program recently at UP hardcourts. Photo shows Justice Nario giving instructions to participating youngsters. Milo sports executive Pat Goc-ong later awarded medals and certificates to participants at the graduation rites.

BOWLING WINNER
A team from Astra Zeneca ruled the recently concluded Century Park Hotel 9th Inter Pharmaceutical Bowling Tournament at the Astrobowl in Magallanes, Makati City. In photo (left to right) are Century Park Hotel director for sales Jessie Rivera, corporate sales manager Mico Galo, the winning team–Matthew Floresca, Lisa Roasa, Dr. Chad Carungin, Ronald Cabero–and CPH director for marketing Angel Suntay.

US OPEN

Henin, Hewitt, Paradorn beat NY rain

NEW YORK—Paradorn Srichapan, Justine Henin-Hardenne and Lleyton Hewitt all looked forward to the business end of the US Open after clocking up victories at the rain-hit hardcourt grand slam on Saturday.

But top seed and world number one Andre Agassi was put on hold by organizers, who told the American to go home and complete his interrupted third-round match with Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Sunday.

Agassi was leading 6-3, 0-1 when rain over Flushing Meadows forced the pair off Arthur Ashe court.

While Jennifer Capriati and Hewitt, Paradorn, as well as resurgent Frenchwoman Mary Pierce, had the good fortune to finish their third-round matches before the weather turned, women's second seed Henin-Hardenne and men's third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero were among those forced to hang around.

When the rain relented, Belgian Henin-Hardenne emerged to crush Saori Obata of Japan 6-1, 6-2 in 55 minutes.

The win set up a fourth-round encounter with Dinara Safina, the sister of men's 2000 US Open champion Marat Safin.

CAPRIATI

The unseeded Safina beat Claudine Schaul of Luxembourg, 6-4, 7-5, to become one of five Russian women in the last 16—a record at the US Open.

Spaniard Ferrero was at his diligent best in overcoming Argentine Juan Ignacio Chela, 7-5, 7-5, 6-1, while the rain delay could not derail American Taylor Dent as he recorded the best performance of his grand slam career.

Paradorn, the 11th seed, had earlier wasted no time ousting Spain's Fernando Verdasco, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Dent, the American world number 74, came from two sets to one down to beat Chilean 15th seed Fernando Gonzalez, 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, a victory which gave 22-year-old Dent a fourth-round contest with the winner of the Agassi-Kafelnikov match.

While Dent was kick-starting his career, 33-year-old compatriot Todd Martin was reprising his glory days with a 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 third-round victory over young American pretender Robby Ginepri.

It meant twice grand slam finalist Martin had secured his best run at a major since Wimbledon 2001.

Back in the men's draw, Hewitt was given an easy passage into the last 16 when his Czech opponent Radek Stepanek retired injured while trailing 6-1 3-0.

Stepanek pulled out with back trouble during the fourth game of the seco
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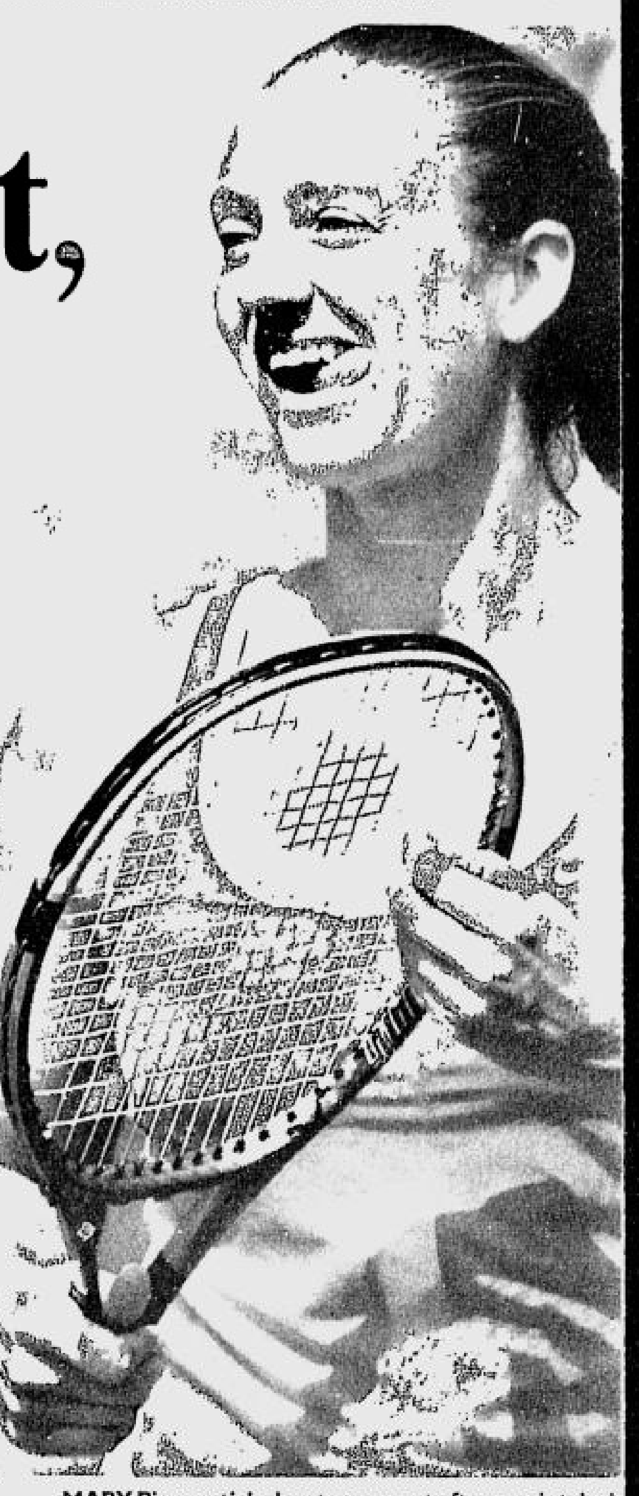


MARY Pierce sticks her tongue out after a point durin
Shinobu Asagoe of Japan. Pierce won, 6-4, 6-1.

Manny up against future ring great

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

WHO is Marco Antonio Barrera that the mere mention of his name sows deep fear among the world's top featherweights?

To the avid boxing fan, Marco Antonio Barrera (57-3, with 50 KOs) is the planet's finest featherweight. Nicknamed "The Baby Face Assassin," he is considered a consummate prizefighter, who has a lock to Canastota's International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Barrera's credentials are now under scrutiny by Filipino ring aficionados. After all, Barrera has been booked to battle our very own IBF superbantam king Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 15 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

More than the $450,000 purse, the 10-round showdown will be the fight of a lifetime for Pacquiao.

DANGEROUS

How dangerous is Barrera? Promoted by Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions and trained by the world-renowned Rudy Perez, the former two-time WBO junior featherweight champ Barrera is an explosively aggressive fighter with an exciting style. An orthodox banger, Barrera wears down opponents through sheer pressure from his exceptional technical skills. Add to that a tremendous fighting heart, an A-1 stamina plus a granite chin and you have a fighter standing on the threshold of greatness.

Barrera seemed to have outgrown his "in-your-face" slugger style, opting to use a disciplined jab more than his left hook lately. However, his hybrid hook-uppercut is still considered his best weapon along with the jab.

Born on Jan. 17, 1974 to a wealthy family involved in furniture trading, Barrera took to boxing at an early age but did not have the benefit of a long amateur career. He racked up a record of just 56 wins and 4 losses and five Mexican National Amateur Championship titles. If you compare that with the 200-plus credentials of today's blue-chip simonpures, Barrera's amateur resumé is nowhere near the backyard to fully explain his success in the pro ranks.

On Nov. 22, 1989, a then 15-year-old Barrera turned pro as a 111-lb flyweight against David Felix. He stopped Felix in two rounds. Barrera went on to win the Mexican superfly title and successfully defended it five times before beating Eduardo Ramirez to win the vacant North American Boxing Federation superfly title.

FIRST TITLE

Barrera challenged WBO superbantam champ Dañiel Jimenez on March 31, 1995 and won his first world title by unanimous decision.

After eight title defenses, Barrera tasted his first defeat in late 1996 at the hands of Junior Jones, who was declared winner due to the premature entry in the ring of Barrera's corner as the Mexican reeled from a series of Jones' blows.

In their grudge rematch five months later, Barrera started strong and piled up points in the early rounds. But Jones' style proved to be a puzzle and the Mexican lost again.

Instead of sulking, Barrera used the two debacles to improve his style. After three victories, Barrera reclaimed the WBO superbantam crown by stopping Richie Wenton for the vacant title.

MORALES BATTLE

After two successful defenses and one no-contest, Barrera fought WBC champion Erik Morales on Feb. 19, 2000 in a unification fight labeled by the *Ring Magazine* as the 2000 Fight of the Year.

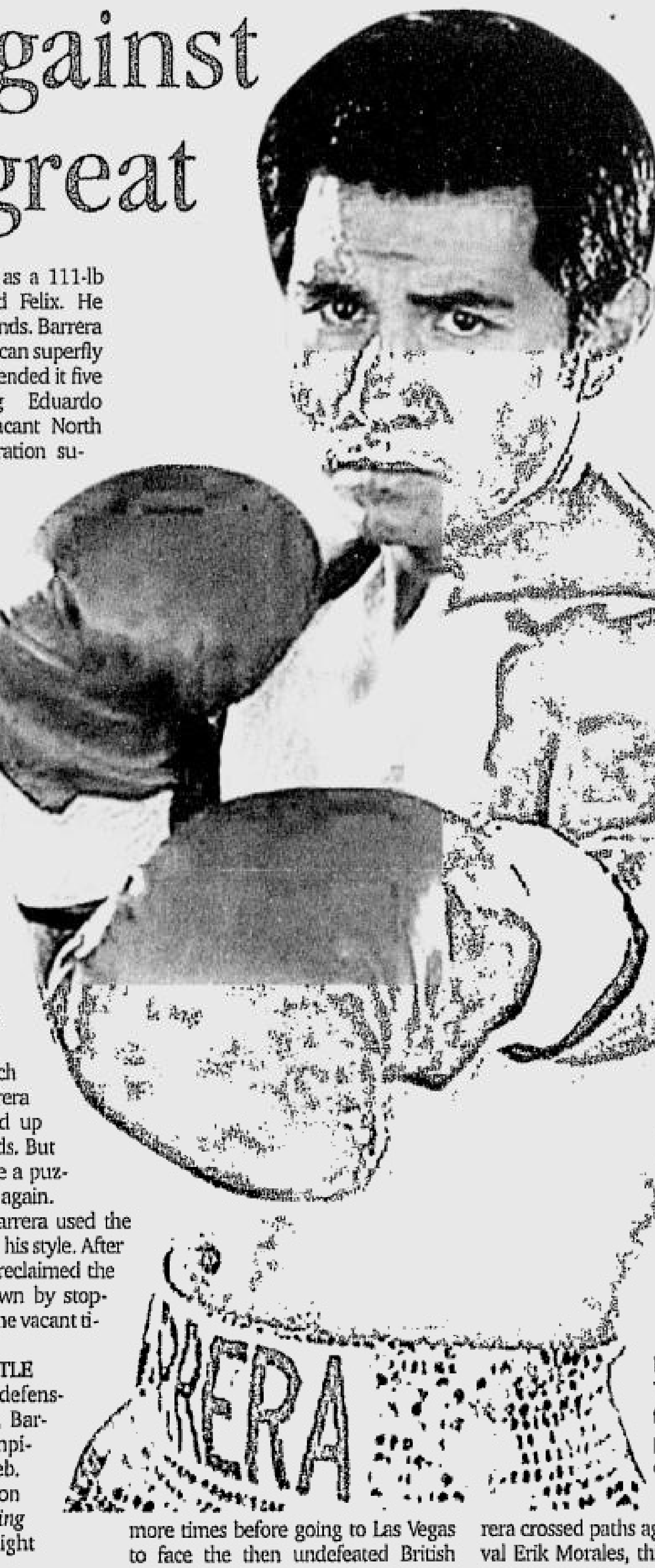
Although he lost by a controversial split decision, Barrera's stock rose no end, prompting the WBO to "re-award" the belt to Barrera. It was the start of a fairy-tale run.

HAMED SHAMED

Barrera defended the title three more times before going to Las Vegas to face the then undefeated British loudmouth Prince Naseem Hamed for the IBO featherweight title. In what was expected to be a Hamed show, Barrera instead scored a unanimous decision win over Yemen-born Hamed.

After a victorious defense of the IBO title over Enrique Sanchez, Barrera crossed paths again with bitter rival Erik Morales, this time demolishing the Morales mystique with a close but unanimous decision.

Barrera then took on the exciting but aging Johnny Tapia, easily posting a unanimous decision win. In his last bout, Barrera scored a fourth-round TKO win over ex-WBC featherweight champ Kevin Kelley last April 12.



BARRERA: Tremendous fighting heart plus granite chin.

Blimp bothers finicky Capriati

NEW YORK—Jennifer Capriati's finickiness reached new heights Saturday: She wanted the blimp hanging over Arthur Ashe Stadium moved.

And that was simply one of her concerns during a tight match at the US Open. She also was bothered by her racket strings, opponent Emilie Loit's style and the weather.

The blimp? Capriati thought it was closer to the court than normal, and found the noise distracting. Still, the three-time major champion persevered, eventually found a comfort zone and won to reach the round of 16.

"When you're playing worse, everything sort of becomes louder than when you're playing well," Capriati said. "If something is bothering me, I. try to stop it or focus a little harder."

She switched outfits because temperatures dipped into the 60s, and she switched rackets to try to account for swirling wind and heavy humidity. And then there were the problems with her serve—Capriati was broken three straight times bridging the second and third sets. But her powerful strokes eventually took their toll on the light-hitting Loit, a Frenchwoman ranked 49th who likes to mix speeds during a point.

At least Capriati must have been thrilled to finish before the rain came. She will make the Open quarters for a third straight year if she can beat No. 11 Elena Dementieva. *AP*

g her match with
AFP

l set and Hewitt,
2001, next faces
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riati powered into
round, blasting
Loit, 6-2, 2-6, 6-
Reuters

Display of unity powers Korean spikers past Japan

DAEGU, South Korea—Host nation South Korea ended the controversy-scarred World Student Games on a high note Sunday with a men's volleyball victory over former colonial aggressors Japan.

In a rare display of Korean unity, hundreds of North Korean cheerleaders joined 5,000 fans at a sell-out Daegu Gymnasium as the South Koreans twice came from a set down to win 3-2.

The victory, in the final event of the tournament, was just cause for celebration for the hosts after a tournament packed with off-field incidents.

A terror alert, bus crash and North-South Korean violence have all overshadowed sporting events since the games opened last Thursday.

South Korea finishes the tournament, which closes officially later on Sunday, with 26 gold medals, the same number as second-placed Russia but with fewer silver and bronze.

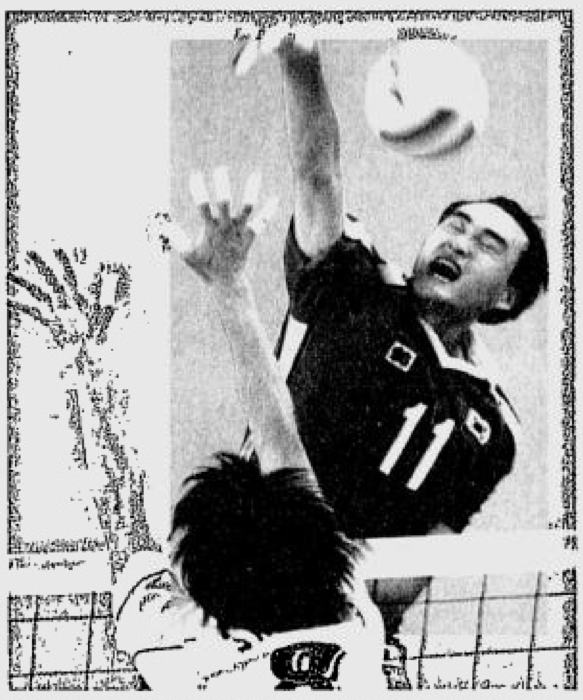
China is 15 golds clear at the head of the table, winning its second student games in a row after the 2001 edition in Beijing, while fellow communist nation North Korea surprised many by finishing in the top 10.

A depleted United States team finished the tournament with just five gold medals, its worst showing since 1975.

Despite repeated threats from North Korea to pull out of the games over anti-Pyongyang protests, the two Koreas will be presented with a fair play award by the International University Sport Federation later on Sunday.

The flag-bearers of both teams are expected to carry the trophy into Daegu World Cup Stadium at the closing ceremony. The games were only North Korea's second appearance at an international tournament in the south after the 2002 Asian Games in Busan.

Earlier, Serbia and Montenegro pulled away from Russia in the third quarter to win the men's basketball final 85-76. Canada came through a tight third-place play-off against China to claim the bronze 82-80. *AFP*



LEE Kyung-soo (11) of South Korea spikes the ball as Shibata Kyohei of Japan tries to block during the men's volleyball final. South Korea defeated Japan, 17-25, 25-19, 20-25, 25-17, 15-12, to win the gold medal.
REUTERS

Gorres, Paro stop foes in 3rd round

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

CEBU City—Former flyweight champion Z "The Dream" Gorres and RP No. 3 superfly Sherwin "Super Assassin" Paro both stopped their respective foes in the third round of the "Explosion at the Mall" card Saturday night here at the Gaisano Countrymall.

Gorres, who is aching for a rematch with conqueror Edgar Rodrigo, counterpunched beautifully before unleashing a left straight to Rommel Libradilla's kisser that ended the 10-round fight with a minute and 17 seconds gone in the third.

Paro also wasted little time, literally turning Jun Pader into a punching bag before putting his outclassed rival away with a left to the belly in 2:44 of the third.

Paro raised his unbeaten streak to 12 victories with 8 KOs and earned a crack at the RP superfly title held by Ramie Laput of Davao either in late October or early November.

"If he beats Laput, I'll bring him to Freddie Roach's Gym in Los Angeles," said his ecstatic manager Marty Elorde, who flew in from Manila to watch his prized ward.

Gorres' Manila-based manager Rudy Salud, who was at ringside along with his business associates, wants an immediate rematch against Rodrigo, who dethroned Gorres by knockout last June 1 at the Makati Coliseum.

However, sportsman Tony Aldeguer, who guided Gorres to numerous titles in the amateur ranks, insisted that Gorres should be given one more hard tune-up bout, possibly on Sept. 20, to further boost his self-confidence.

The win improved Gorres' record to 14 wins with 7 KOs against that loss to Rodrigo.

All three ALA boys prevailed in the undercard.

Reynald Tribo was stretched to the limit but prevailed by unanimous decision over veteran Tata Polinar.

Tribo was clearly the dominant fighter, but somehow lost steam in the last few rounds.

Another ALA Boy, Rey Bautista, stopped tough Rey Martizano in 2:52 of the 4th round.

Bautista was never threatened by Martizano, proving the superior fighter with accurate shots to the head and body.

Reman Salim, the last ALA Boy, finally posted his first knockout victory when Lito Jimenez quit in the 6th round.

In the preliminaries, Edmund Velayo and Ricky Señego fought to a technical draw after Velayo suffered two bad cuts in the 3rd round while Ryan Del Prado scored a TKO win over Glicer Padrigao in his pro debut.

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Beckham scores big as Madrid nips Betis

MADRID—David Beckham scored three minutes into his first league match, a 2-1 win over Real Betis on Saturday, to cap a dream start to his Real Madrid career.

The England captain was on hand to sidefoot home a Ronaldo pass after the Brazilian and fellow striker Raul had exchanged a neat one-two to carve open the Betis defense.

The goal, the first to be scored by any player in this season's Spanish league, was Beckham's second in two games at the Bernabeu.

Like league champions Real, a new-look Barcelona also got off to a encouraging start with a 1-0 away win over Athletic Bilbao, in a game that marked the league debut of Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho.

Dutch midfielder Philip Cocu scored the only goal of the game with a header after a free kick from fellow countryman Giovanni van Bronckhorst 12 minutes into the match at San Mames.

Ronaldinho produced some classy touches, but did not shine as much as he had done during the pre-season fixtures and the Catalans had to dig deep to claim their victory.

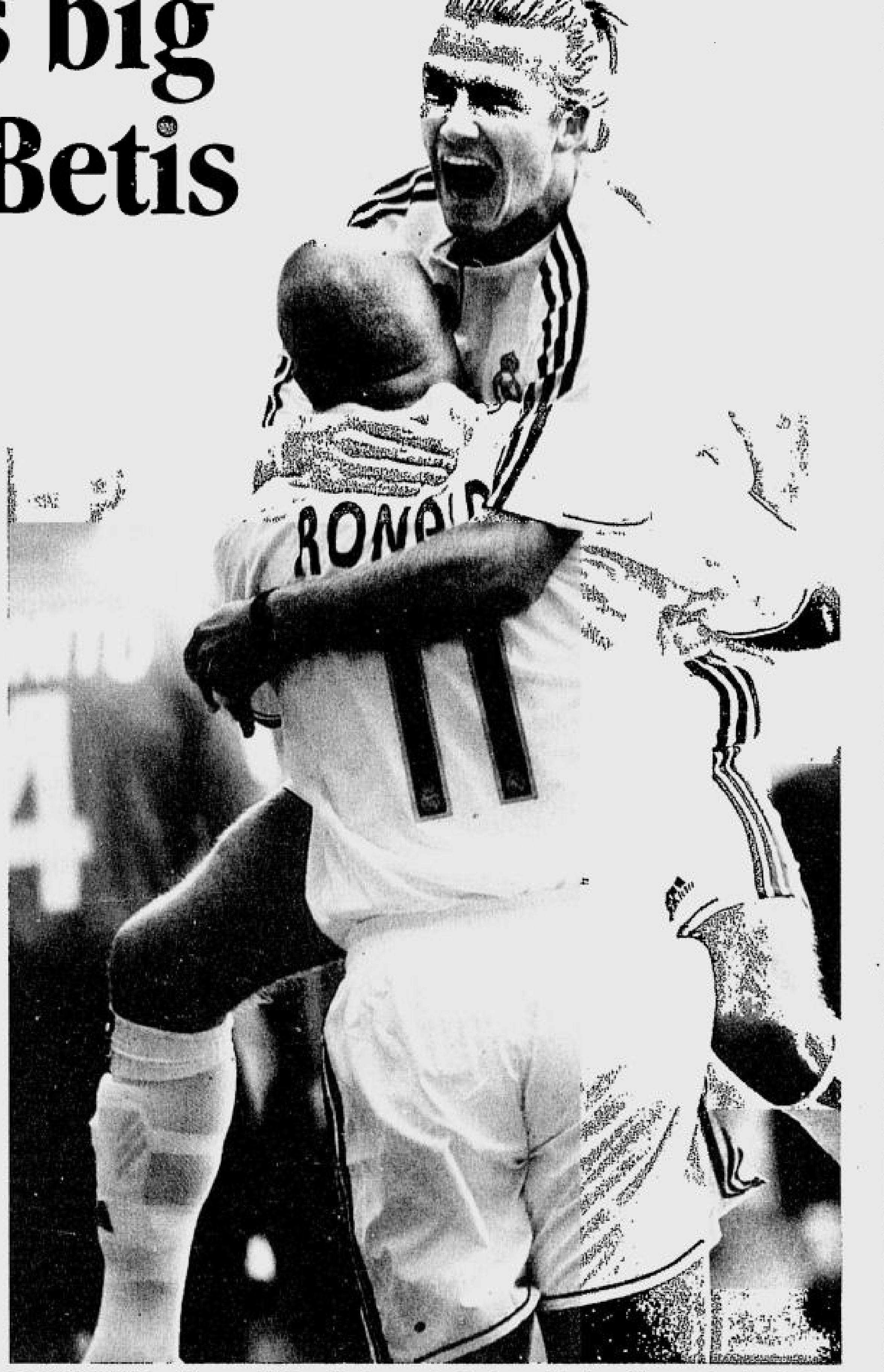
Striker Darko Kovacevic poked in a second half equaliser after defender Pierre Wome had given the home side the lead with a deflected free kick on 23 minutes.

Osasuna have the honor of topping thetable after a 2-0 win over newly promoted Albacete.

Real got off to a flying start at the Bernabeu with Beckham's early goal and the midfielder, who had also scored in his team's midweek Super Cup victory over Mallorca, went close to adding a second when he sent a dipping free kick just over the bar from the edge of the area after 15 minutes.

But Betis soon recovered from their early setback and began to play some fluent football.

New signing Martin Palermo rattled the crossbar with a bullet header on 28 minutes and it was not long before the Andalucians got back on level terms with the league champions. Reuters



BECKHAM (right) celebrates with Ronaldo after scoring his first goal during a Liga match against Betis. AP

Victorious Vence turns Milo run into SEAG tuneup

FIVE-TIME national champion Roy Vence took the first step to claiming his sixth title when he ruled yesterday's 42-kilometer National Capital Region elimination of the 27th National Milo Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand.

With tough competitors like two-time winner Allan Ballester and defending champion Eduardo Buenavista absent from the starting line, Vence turned the race into a tuneup for his stint in the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam in December.

He finished the race in two hours, 29 minutes and seven seconds, a far cry from his time of 2:23:27 in the finals last year.

"Parang preparation ko na rin ito sa SEA Games. *Kung ganito ang itatakbo ko sa SEA Games, malaki ang pag-asa ko na maka-gold,"* said the 37-year-old runner from Cebu. *"Medyo umuulan kaya hindi masyadong mainit. At saka dumating ako six minutes bago mag-start kaya wala na akong* chance *na makapag*-warm up."

Vence bagged the title here in 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 1999. Last year, he lost to Buenavista by 35 seconds. He qualified to run in the 42-K Grand Finals on Oct. 19, along with the rest of the runners who completed the course within the four-hour limit.

Placing second and third were Noel Bautista (2:32:04) and Rowel Canillo (2:34:44), respectively.

Liza Yambao also took advantage of the absence of top women runners like Cristabel Martes and Flordeliza Cachero to win her first leg title in this annual race held in partnership with Cebu Pacific, Adidas, Bayview Park Hotel, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

"Umpisa pa lang alam kong malaki ang tsansa kong manalo dahil wala sina Martes *at* Cachero," said the 21-year-old runner.

Yambao clocked 3:14:52. Lisa Delfin came in second in 3:33:33 while Melinda Manahan placed third in 3:41:43.

Yambao brought home the P30,000 top purse while Delfin and Manahan settled for P20,000 and P10,000, respectively.

Reynaldo Pascua ruled the men's 10-K fun run. He outkicked James Galo and Joseph Trinidad.

The women's 10-K run was dominated by Mercedita Manipol, who also won in Laguna last week. She was followed home by Vilma Butac and Russel Roliano.

The top three finishers in the 5-K were Rio dela Cruz, Rabin Dalog and Jordan Oberez (men's division), and Maricris Labaguez, Merecil Maquilan and Salve Lospe (women).

KO WINNER

Ukrainian heavyweight boxer Vladimir Klischko (right) celebrates his victory after a WBA international heavyweight championship fight as his opponent Argentina's Fabio Moli receives medical treatment in Munich on Saturday. Klitschko won the fight with a knockout after 109 seconds. REUTERS

Bonds returns, helps Giants down Diamondbacks in NL

PHOENIX—Barry Bonds hit a home run on an emotional return after missing six games following the death of his father to help the San Francisco Giants edge the Arizona Diamondbacks 2-1 in the National League Saturday.

The Giants slugger reached on an infield single in the first inning and bludgeoned a 403-foot homer in the fourth, his 40th of the season and 653rd of his career, for the game-winning run.

After hitting the homer, Bonds looked up at the roof of Bank One Ballpark for a few moments more than usual. When he jogged to the outfield in the next half-inning, he pulled his cap down over his forehead and wiped his eyes.

Bobby Bonds, who combined batting prowess with fleet-footed base running for eight major league teams, most notably the Giants, died last Saturday at the age of 57 after a long struggle with cancer.

Rich Aurilia also homered for the Giants, the runaway leaders in the NL West.

Jerome Williams (6-3) went 8 1/3 innings for the win, allowing one run on six hits with eight strikeouts and three walks. Tim Worrell recorded the last two outs for his 30th save of the season.

Randy Johnson (4-7) pitched seven strong innings but took the loss. He gave up two runs on five hits with 11 strikeouts and two walks. Raul Mondesi had three of Arizona's six hits.

In Pittsburgh, Marcus Giles, Andruw Jones and rookie Mike Hessman homered to lead the Atlanta Braves to a 13-6 triumph over the Pirates.

Gary Sheffield had three hits and drove in three runs for the Braves while Mark DeRosa had three hits and drove in two runs. Horacio Ramirez (9-4) allowed five runs on 10 hits over seven innings for the win.

Craig Wilson homered and drove in three runs for the Pirates. Loser Oliver Perez (4-8) gave up six runs on four hits with one strikeout and five walks in 2 1/3 innings.

In Chicago, Richie Sexson homered and had four RBIs as the Milwaukee Brewers won for the 11th time in 12 games, downing the Cubs 9-5.

Mark Smith also homered for the Brewers. *Reuters*

CLEVELAND Indians second baseman Brandon Phillips jumps over Toronto Blue Jays' Orlando Hudson (3) after throwing to first. AP

What makes Schwarzenegger tick?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR many, former bodybuilder and movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger is the leading candidate in the recall election for governor of California on Oct. 7. They say that if the voters consider not just his great physique but his overall attributes as well, Arnold would beat incumbent Gov. Gray Davis and a host of other aspirants.

"I want to be the people's governor," said the 56-year-old Austrian-born superhero in a recent TV ad. "I stand for fiscally responsible government, rebuilding California's economic engine. (California is currently nursing a huge $38-billion deficit), putting the needs of children first and reforming our political system so that the public interest comes before special interests."

Arnold Schwarzenegger has been a source of fascination. His success in bodybuilding business and life is no accident. Said fitness writer Bill Dobbins: "His achievements have come about because of who he is, how his mind works, the way he sees the world, his attitude towards life, his sense of reality and his ability to assign priorities and solve problems."

Arnold started with nothing but dreams, determination and a job that bodybuilding godfather Joe Weider gave him way back in the late 1960s. But by dint of hard work and a strong discipline, he rose from being a virtual unknown to become the greatest bodybuilder the sport has ever seen—and perhaps the best it will ever see.

Young people aspiring to succeed in sports could use "The Austrian Oak" as a role model, to study his way of thinking and methods of action and learn from them. For instance, as a bodybuilder, Arnold has that ability to forego pleasures when necessary. He loves to ski, but during his competitive bodybuilding years he kept off the slopes because the simplest skiing accident could cost him his career. Same with motorcycling, another favorite sport. "The pleasure of riding wasn't worth the risk of an injury that could end my career," he said.

In the past, Arnold served as chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports during the elder Bush administration. Recently, he formed a powerhouse team of experts to counter attacks on his political skills. Heading his Economic Recovery Council are chief financial advisor, billionaire Warren Buffet and former Secretary of State George Schultz.

As a champion bodybuilder (he won the Mr. Universe and Mr. Olympia titles during his prime), Arnold gave bodybuilding new meaning, respect and recognition. Said Dobbins, "Not since Steve Reeves and his Italian muscle movies has any bodybuilder become so visible to the general public. Arnold has gone from being the most dominant bodybuilder of all time to one of the most famous (and richest) movie stars in the world."

***

THE PAST OLYMPIANS. In 1984 in Los Angeles, the Soviets reacted to the US-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games by leading a similar boycott of the LA Games. American Carl Lewis, the greatest track and field athlete of all time, duplicated the four gold medals won in 1936 by Jessie Owens, his boyhood idol. Lewis topped the 100 and 200-meter dashes, the long jump and added another gold in the 4 x 100-meter relay. The Games also made a handsome profit for the first time in many years...In 1988 in Seoul, Canada's Ben Johnson set a world record in the 100 meters, but was stripped of the gold medal after he tested positive for steroids. Also in Seoul, American Greg Louganis, considered the greatest diver in history, won both the gold medals in the springboard and platform competitions. Having won the two events earlier in 1984 in Los Angeles, Louganis' back-to-back double golds was a first for a male diver.

Early in 1988, Louganis was found to be HIV-positive. He competed at the Seoul Games in a state of panic, worried that somehow he might infect the other athletes. His fear worsened when his head hit the springboard during a dive and he fell into the pool with a gash on his scalp. But the stitched-up Louganis returned to the venue and went on to win. Louganis was dyslexic and considered retarded as a young boy. He was an illegitimate child of a Samoan father and a European mother. At age 11, Louganis was discovered by the legendary American diving champion Sammy Lee.

Gracious and good-looking, Louganis retired from competition after Seoul and became an actor and a spokesman during AIDS fund-raising activities.

WORLD TRACKFEST

French runners win; White pulls out

PARIS—Former European champion Christine Arron anchored France to their second gold medal of the evening on Saturday with a scorching final leg in the world women's 4x100-meter relay final.

Heptathlete silver medalist Eunice Barber had earlier sent the packed crowd at the Stade de France into a frenzy with victory for the host country in the women's long jump.

"I gave it everything on my last jump," Barber said.

On a dramatic eighth day of the world championships, the United States pulled Kelli White off the relay team after the double world sprint champion tested positive for a stimulant.

In her absence, 100-m silver medalist Torri Edwards ran the final leg for the Americans but could not hold off Arron in the straight.

White, the first American woman to win the world 100-200 double, tested positive after Sunday's 100-m final for Modafinil, a drug used to treat attention disorder or sleepiness, which will not be on the banned list until next year.

A statement from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said White could run in the relay final but her name was not included in the team list issued by USA Track & Field.

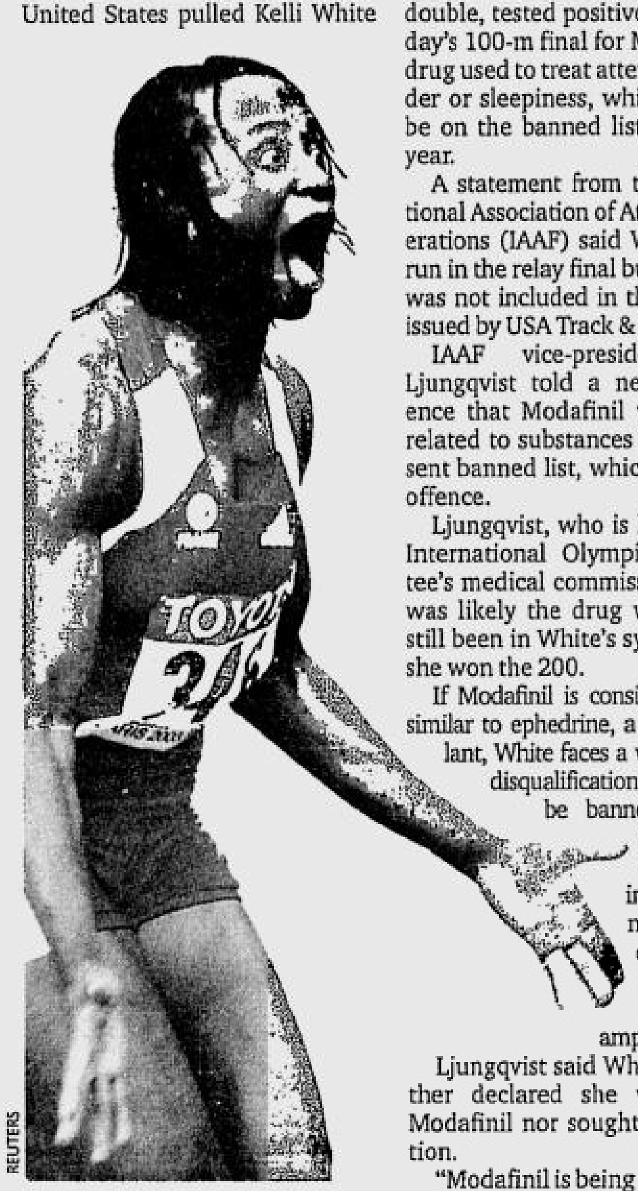
IAAF vice-president Arne Ljungqvist told a news conference that Modafinil was clearly related to substances on the present banned list, which is also an offence.

Ljungqvist, who is head of the International Olympic Committee's medical commission, said it was likely the drug would have still been in White's system when she won the 200.

If Modafinil is considered to be similar to ephedrine, a mild stimulant, White faces a warning and disqualification. She could be banned for two years as well as losing her medals if the drug is regarded to be similar to amphetamines.

Ljungqvist said White had neither declared she was taking Modafinil nor sought an exemption.

"Modafinil is being observed as a possible substance for the purpose of performance enhancement," he said. *Reuters*


REUTERS

FRANCE'S Eunice Barber reacts as she celebrates her victory in the women's long jump final.

ALLEN Johnson (right) of the US finishes first in the men's 110-m hurdles final, ahead of Xiang Liu (center) of China in third place and Terrence Trammell of the US in second. AFP

I have never taken any substance to enhance my performance—White

PARIS—American sprinter champion Kelli White, who risks being stripped of both her World Championships sprint titles after testing positive for a stimulant, said here on Saturday she took the drug because she suffered from narcolepsy, a condition which causes extreme tiredness.

White protested her innocence after the International Association of Athletics Federations announced it was investigating the content of the drug, Modafinil, also known by its brand name Provigil, and wanted to hear more evidence from White before deciding whether to strip her of her 100-m and 200-m titles.

Reading from a statement, White said: "I am under suspicion of a doping violation. The mere fact of this allegation is personally harmful and hurtful.

WHITE REUTERS

"I have never taken any substance to enhance my performance.

"Close members of my family have been under doctor's care for the condition of narcolepsy for years.

"I too have been diagnosed with this condition by my physician. He prescribed the drug Provigil for this condition and I have taken it in certain circumstances, including prior to the 100 meters.

"I did not seek an IAAF medical exemption for this substance or note it on my doping control form because I had no idea that Provigil contained a banned substance."

Professor Arne Ljungqvist, the head of the IAAF medical committee, earlier defined Modafinil as a drug taken "by people who easily lose concentration and awareness and actually fall asleep". He explained that although Modafinil was not on the banned list, it could be a "related substance" and part of either the family of drugs known as ephedrine or amphetamines which are forbidden.

He said however White's case would not be helped by the fact she failed to declare her use of the drug.

"She did not declare the substance beforehand," said Ljungqvist. *AFP*

Races return to San Lazaro

AFTER the successful staging of the "Alay sa Kawal" racefest, Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) is set to host for the second week in a row another six days of thrilling horse racing action starting this Tuesday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

MJCI's back-to-back racing schedule includes four evening cards of nine races each starting today through Friday and two weekend programs of 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday.

Highlight of the program is the running of the Philracom Special Invitational Race for Class C jockeys on Sunday, Sept. 7.

Carrying a pot of P400,000, the event is a restricted race for Class 4 gallopers and will involve 15 Class C jockeys who will be paired to the select field of final declared entries by means of a scheduled lottery this coming Wednesday at the SLLP.

The SLLP currently boasts twin-oval all-weather racetrack that is twice as wide as the old San Lazaro Hippodrome racetrack. MJCI utilizes both ovals on a regular basis, with the inner track being used for shorter distance races and the bigger outer track for races set over a mile distance.

HALFBRIDLED

DEL MAR VICTOR

Halfbridled, with Julie Krone aboard, returns after winning the victory in the Del Mar Debutante, Saturday at Del Mar Thoroughbred Club in Del Mar, California. AP

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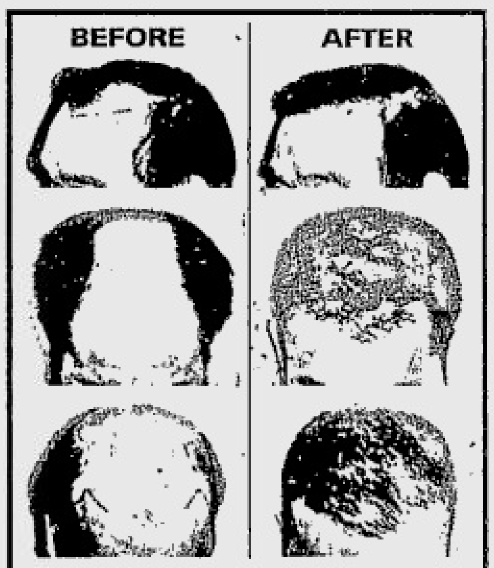

LA Sparks stay in contention; Connecticut sweeps Charlotte

LOS ANGELES—Lisa Leslie had 20 points and nine rebounds as the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Sparks staved off elimination in the first round of the playoffs Saturday night with an 80-69 win over the Minnesota Lynx.

The Sparks bounced back from blowing a 21-point lead in a stunning 74-72 loss to the Lynx on Thursday. The decisive third game of the series will be played at Staples Center on Monday.

Forward DeLisha Milton added 17 points and 10 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Guard Katie Smith led the Lynx with 18 points and Tamika Williams added 17 and seven rebounds.

Minnesota's only lead was two minutes in, when they were up 5-3.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Taj McWilliams-Franklin scored 16 points and Katie Douglas added 13 as Connecticut beat Charlotte, 68-62, completing a sweep of the best-of-three Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Shannon Johnson finished with eight assists as Connecticut, formerly the Orlando Miracle, advanced to the conference finals against either Detroit or Cleveland.

Andrea Stinson scored 16 of her game-high 25 points in the second half for Charlotte, which shot 37 percent and lost its sixth straight playoff game dating to the 2001 WNBA Finals. *AP*

Strong start by No. 1 Oklahoma

NORMAN, Oklahoma—Jason White threw three touchdown passes and Oklahoma's defense was as good as advertised as the No. 1 Sooners opened the season with a 37-3 victory over North Texas on Saturday night.

The Sooners limited North Texas to 50 yards through three quarters before the Mean Green's only scoring drive, which began against the second-stringers.

Meanwhile, Katie Hnida became the first woman to score in a Division 1 college football game when she kicked two extra points for New Mexico in a 72-8 win over Texas State-San Marcos on Saturday night. Hnida, a 5-foot-10 (1.78-m), 140-pound (63-kilogram) senior, made her first kick with 5:05 left. *AP*

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SPORTS

BADMINTON OPEN

Natividad, Ang snare jr titles

MARK Natividad and Kelvin Ang dominated the boys' events while Raquel Guerrero and Janina Paredes ruled the girls' division of the juniors category at the close of the JVC Open Badminton Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati yesterday.

Natividad won the 18-under title by humbling doubles partner Marlon Villarin, 15-4, 15-2, while Ang snared the 14-under crown by repulsing Kevin Dalisay, 15-2, 15-2, in the event which featured the country's future badminton stars.

Guerrero pocketed the 18-under crown in the girls' side via a straight-game victory over Chona Rivera, 11-4, 11-6, while Paredes bagged the 14-under title by downing Karyn Velez, 13-12, 11-0.

Natividad and Guerrero received P6,000 and a GenTxt mobile phone each for their victories while Ang and Paredes got over P270,000 worth of educational plan from Pioneer Life.

But Natividad failed to annex the doubles diadem in the 18-under class as his team-up with Villarin took a heartbreaker loss from the Michael Paclibar-Wilmer Frias tandem, 17-16, 17-15.

Natividad, however, partnered with Paula Obanana to claim the mixed doubles crown via a 15-4, 15-9 romp over Michael Palicbar and Chona Rivera.

The Guerrero siblings—Rachel and Raquel—won the girls' doubles title with a 15-3, 15-3 victory over the Francesca Bermejo-Apples Alejo tandem in the annual event.

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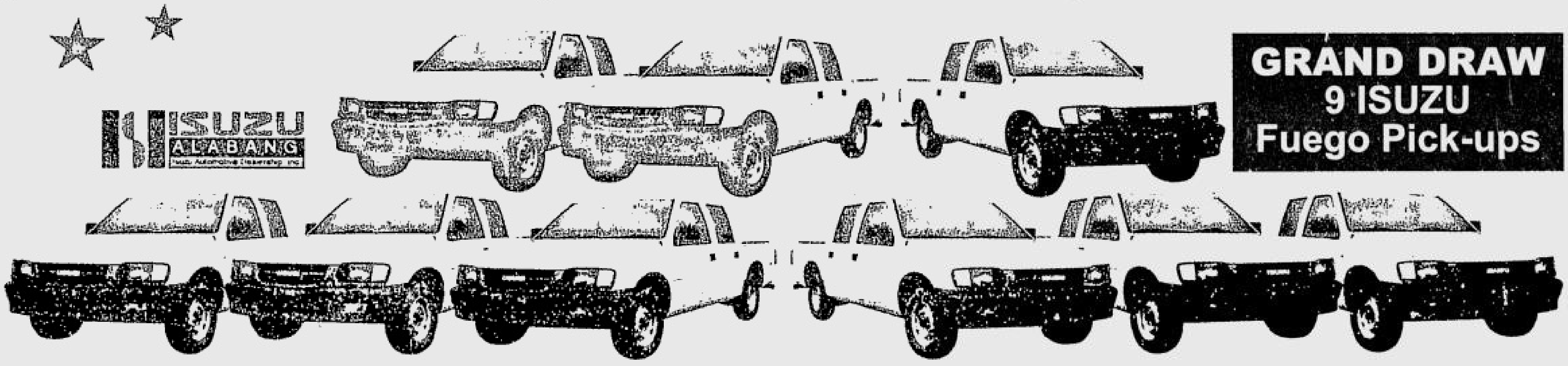

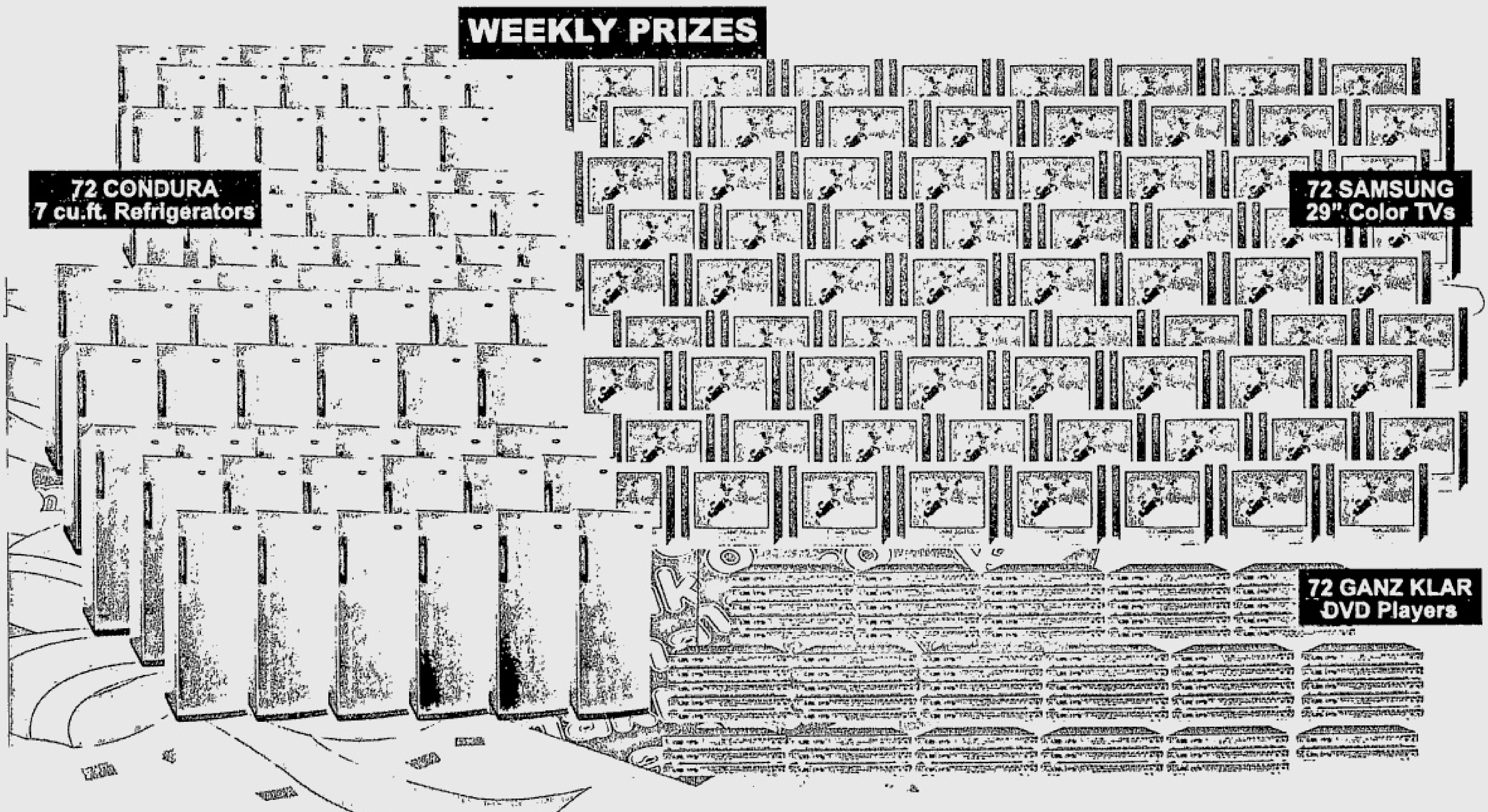

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Gov't seen needing $6B in new loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has no choice but to borrow $6 billion from overseas markets starting this year to pay its maturing obligations and those of the cash-strapped National Power Corp. in 2004, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

"Even if the government has raised (funds from local sources), it needs to borrow in dollars just enough to cover its maturing dollar obligations. Otherwise, it would impact on the country's GIR (gross international reserves) and the peso," he said.

He said the government must borrow at least $1 billion more this year.

"I know the government will come to the BSP in the fourth quarter for approval of their pre-funding for 2004. They have to borrow about $1 billion this year," the central bank chief said.

Buenaventura clarified that what the government usually referred to as pre-funding was not necessarily borrowing for upcoming obligations as it could be for current maturing loans.

"The government calls it pre-funding because it has the money in pesos to pay maturing obligations but the problem is converting the pesos into dollars. They could not rely on the GIR or even on the market to produce the dollars needed to pay their maturing debt," the BSP chief explained.

Of the $6 billion in maturing dollar obligations of the government in 2004, the Napocor accounts for $2.07 billion and the remaining $3.94 billion is owed by the State.

This year, the government still has to cover at least $1.33 billion of its maturing obligations, of which $192 million was due to the Napocor's shortfall.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said that part of the $1.5 billion in securities registered with the United States last week would also be used by the power firm for its bond issues.

Edeza said the government or Napocor would likely reopen the 2014 bond market for an issue scheduled in the fourth quarter.

In July, the government sold $750 million worth of bonds maturing in 2014 and the proceeds

GOV'T/B2

PRESIDENT Macapagal and David L. Cunningham Jr., president of FedEx Express Asia Pacific Division, met last week to discuss the company's current and potential future interests in the country. Cunningham said FedEx has no immediate plans to move its hub operations before the lease expires in August 2007. The company has also expressed initial interest in exploring the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport as an expansion location.

EDWIN BACASMAS

INDICATORS

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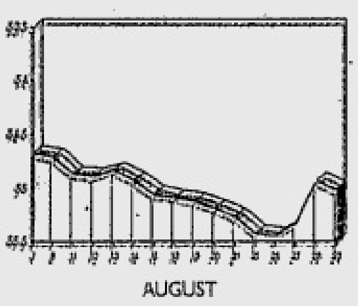

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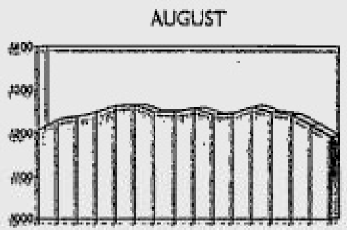
STOCK MARKET

Weak trading seen



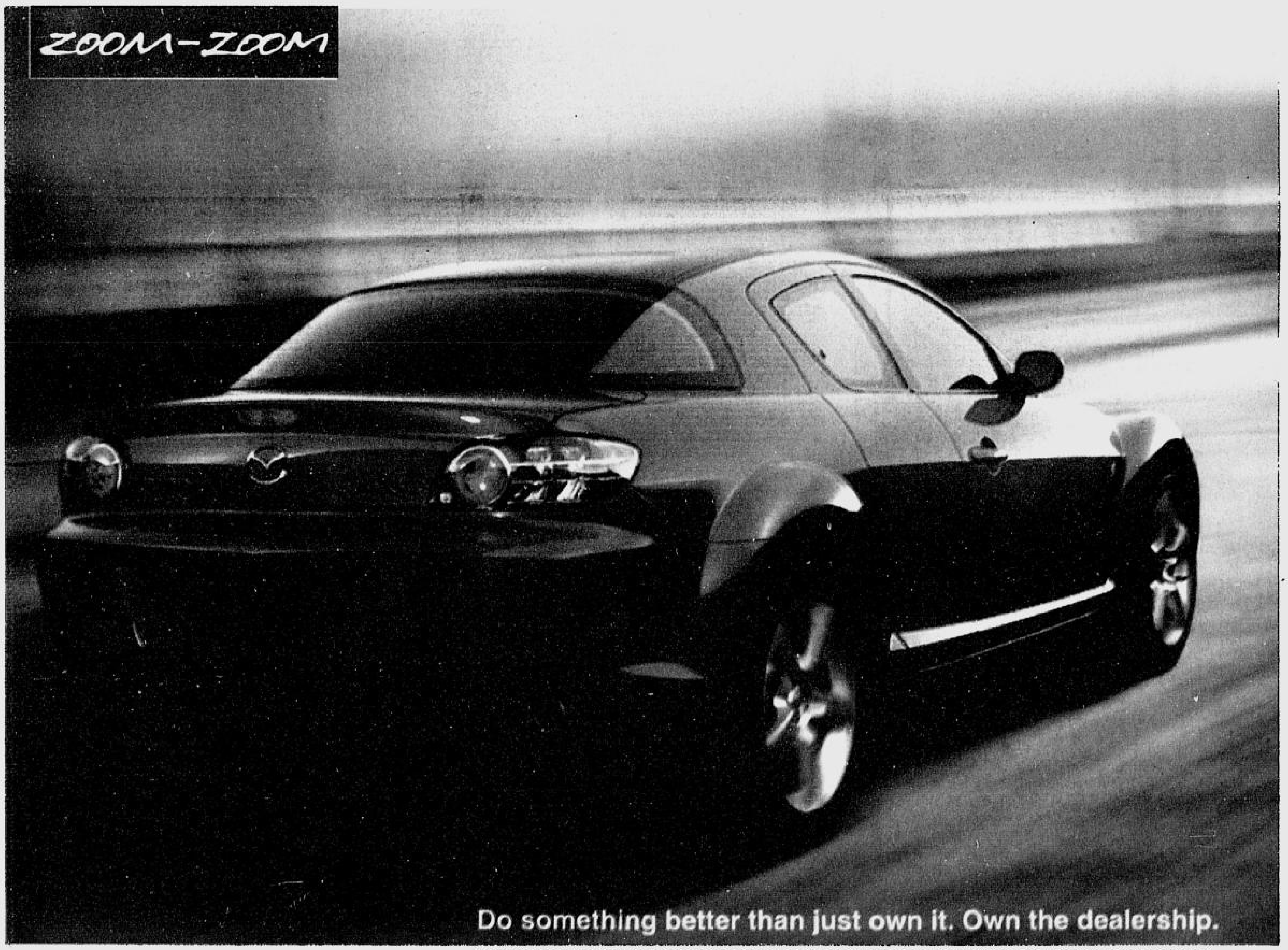
(See stock market report on Page B6)

ANOTHER week of lackluster trading awaits local stocks, which are now groping for the near-term bottom, on the back of domestic political squabbles and fresh measures adopted by monetary authorities to mop up excess liquidity.

Last week, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index succumbed to heavy profit-taking and shed 52.51 points or 4.22 percent to close at 1,192.83 on Friday.

Rommel Macapagal, a dealer at Westlink Global Equities, said the market would likely sustain a downtrend, although he noted that some bargain hunters might take advantage of the sharp decline in prices and

WEAK/B6



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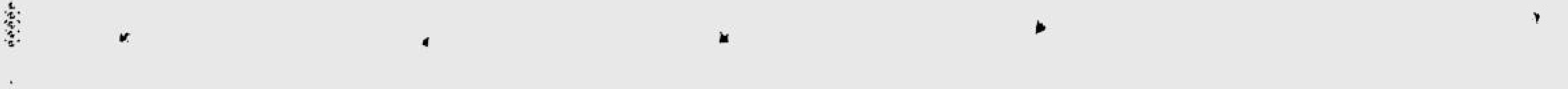
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BIR regulation to raise taxes on alcoholic drinks

By Clarissa S. Batino

MORE than half of close to 650 brands of alcoholic beverages introduced after 1997 would have to start paying higher excise taxes starting the middle of September, according to a revenue regulation issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue last Friday.

Included in the alcoholic brands to be hit by the regulation is San Miguel Dark Lager Beer, which, together with three brands of Heineken beer, would have to start paying an excise tax of P13.61 per liter.

The four beers are among more than 250 brands of alcoholic beverages that were not listed in the BIR.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said that products with no available data from the bureau were likely those that have not been paying excise taxes or may have passed through duty-free shops.

Of the 650 brands, only San Miguel Dark Lager plus two brands of Novelino champagne were manufactured locally. Novelino's excise tax liability was kept at P112 per liter.

Of the new brands surveyed by the BIR, about 90 products have to pay as much as 200 percent more in excise taxes. For most products, the tax liability would jump from P112 per liter to P336 or from P84 per liter to P168.

Among the more familiar brands to be affected are three products of Absolut Vodka, 19 products of Artic Vodka, two products of Jose Cuervo, more than 20 products of Remy Martin, and 13 products of Stolichnaya.

A similar regulation was issued two weeks ago covering new brands of cigarettes introduced after the Comprehensive Tax Reform Law (CTRP) took effect in 1997.

The internal revenue agency is addressing administrative weaknesses of tax policies while a bill is pending in Congress to index cigarette and liquor taxes to inflation. The law, if passed, would give the government about P13 billion in additional revenues over a two-year period.

The BIR regulations were issued to address the tax leakage caused by the government's failure to conduct a survey in the retail prices of cigarettes and liquor brands three months after these were introduced in the market. The survey was the basis of the excise taxes that should be applied.

The survey concluded by the BIR recently was the first since Congress passed CTRP that fixed the excise taxes on existing brands at that time.

New brands that were introduced were able to pay the excise taxes based on the manufacturers' declaration of retail prices.

Of the brands not covered by the 1997 CTRP, only San Mig Light was removed from the list of new brands after the BIR declared it a variant of existing products.

San Miguel Corp. registered San Mig Light as a new brand in 1999 and was able to reduce it tax liabilities to only P9.15 per liter. The beer brand would cost P10 more per liter with the BIR ruling.

"We agreed that San Mig Light is a variant and not a new brand. I think the BIR's legal department supports our decision," said Parayno in an earlier interview.

The BIR defines a variant as a brand "on which a modifier is prefixed or suffixed to the root name of the brand which carries the same logo or design of the existing brand."

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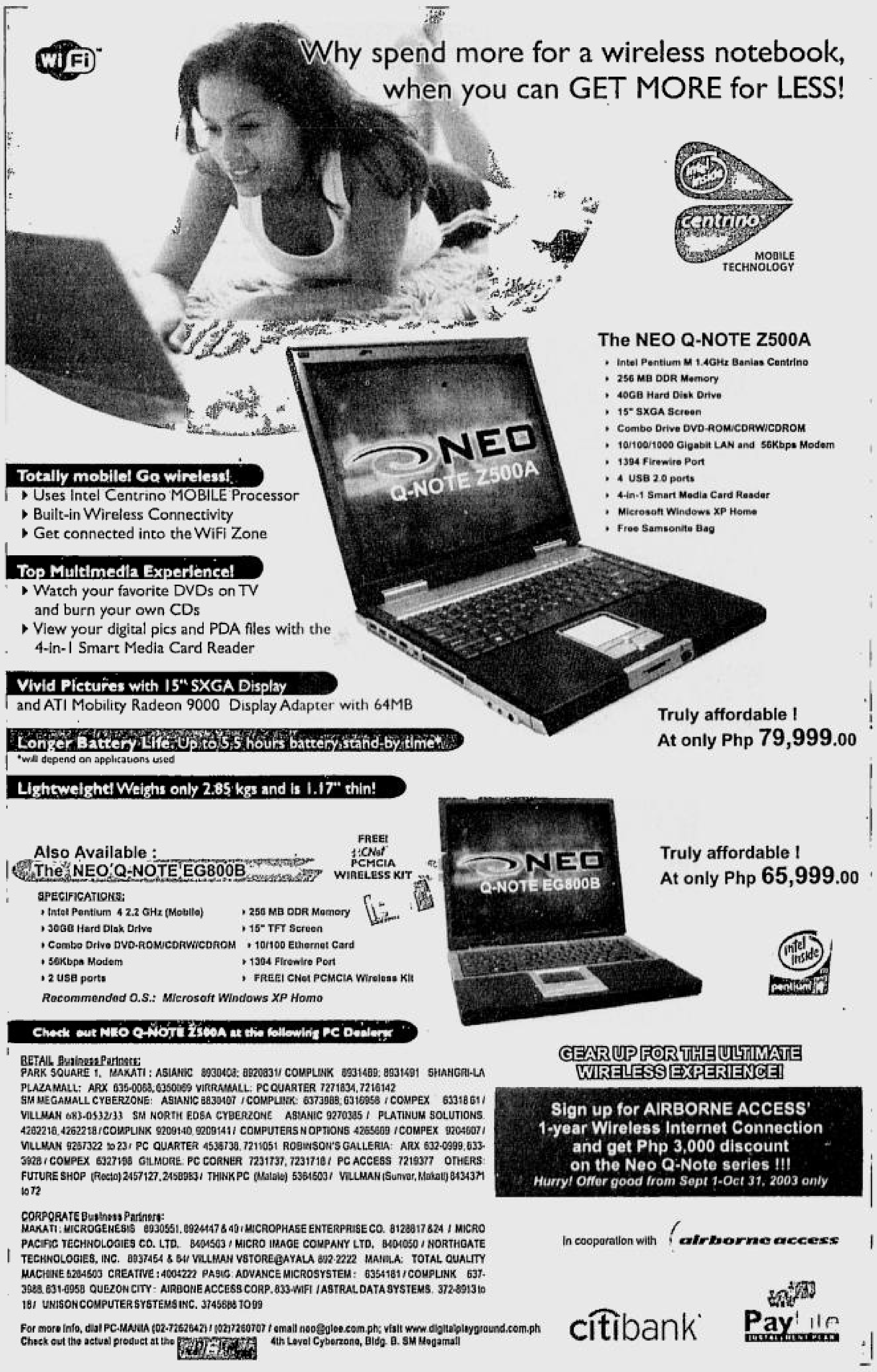
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To summit up

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

BY this time, it is a cliché. Today we blame everything on "too much politics." We know it has become a cliché. We even hear it from the politicians themselves.

If the problem is "too much politics," the solution seems to be more politics. I am not surprised. The solution was thought up by a politician.

The idea came from Senate President Franklin Drilon. To solve the problem of "too much politics," he wants all politicians to talk about politics.

The leaders of the land are going to hold a political summit. Down here in our barangay, "summit" is just another way of saying "meeting with free lunch."

So there you are, they are going to solve our biggest problem by doing more of the same. They will try to sum it all up in the summit.

* * *

IF you ask me, I say that everybody in politics is guilty of too much politics, from the barangay level to the highest office of the land.

Everybody has his or her own agenda to pursue—without a single exception. That's what being in politics is all about in our country. And it is sad.

So when everybody attacks everybody else, what is a man like Drilon to do? Not a few accuse his own institution, the Senate itself, as a big part of the problem.

Precisely, people are saying there's "too much politics" because of all those numerous hearings in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

I wonder what they can expect to come out of the forthcoming summit. Maybe they will promise us, well, no more congressional investigation from hereon.

That's great news to Jose Pidal, whoever he may be!

* * *

BLAMING the economic slowdown on "too much politics" is like blaming pregnancy on having sexual intercourse. But of course!

The executive is not doing its job well! This, in business, is the biggest reason for the economic slowdown.

When she assumed power, in the first place, this President—m.p.k.a. Gloriaetta, at least in my family—did not have her own set of trusted people to put in the Cabinet.

Gloriaetta had to rely on the people who were, er, "recommended" to her by some nameless, faceless groups in something called the civil society.

That's how, for instance, her different groups of spin doctors somehow mingled around her. As part of civil society, they wormed their way into her office.

* * *

YOU see, in business, they are not really happy with certain Cabinet members, or those who do not show even just a bit of the promise of brilliance. Nor integrity.

When was the last time, for instance, Gloriaetta checked the performance of various departments. She relied mainly on their reports. Of course they are always glossy.

That's where I think we should start looking. There's got to be some close monitoring of programs and projects of each department, Clinton-style.

In business, they are curious why, for instance, the MRT extension project, after all this time, is not yet pushing through.

Another curiosity is the Napocor privatization. We have no bidders for Transco. Yet a Cabinet member has been boasting about how good a job he has been doing.

* * *

THIS is a letter from Gary Olivar, chief finance officer of Bayantel, in reaction to our piece last week about his company's so-called debt restructuring. It goes:

"I am writing in reference to your column entitled 'Television neat work' dated Aug. 25, 2003, in which you referred to comments issued by our chairman, Eugenio Lopez III, about BayanTel's debt restructuring negotiations.

"To clarify, Mr. Lopez's comments that 'BayanTel would soon sign a debt restructuring agreement' were based on my view, as BayanTel's CFO, of the creditors' sentiments as these had developed in our discussions over the last two years.

"Given my view of the progress we were making with the creditors, I consider it unfortunate that certain of our bondholders would file a petition in court for the corporate rehabilitation of BayanTel.

'Also, I would like to correct your statement that it was the debtors who 'took over the company and formed a receivership'.

"Nothing of this has happened. As a point of fact, the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 158 issued a Stay Order and appointed a receiver to BayanTel last Aug. 8, based on a petition filed by the Bank of New York on behalf of certain bondholders.

"We believe this court-ordered receivership is simply a new phase in our debt restructuring process. The court order does not prevent BayanTel from doing business as usual. As stated in the Stay Order, the intention is to 'provide (BayanTel) with the certainty necessary to continue its business effectively and profitability'."

* * *

ANOTHER letter came from Butch Raquel, OIC for corporate communications of GMA Channel 7:

"First, we refer to the 'Jose Pidal' story, which you mentioned did not get enough exposure in our newscasts. We did make a story on our reporter Tina Panganiban-Perez's 'feud' with the President as the banner of our early evening newscast, 'Frontpage.' After the story was splashed all over the papers that weekend, including the INQUIRER, we thought it was only fitting that we air Tina's and the network's side of the story. The story about Senator Lacson's expose was the banner story for our late evening newscast, 'Saksi.' Follow-ups on the scandal/expose involving the First Gentleman were carried and highlighted by both newscasts on the succeeding days.

"GMA News and Public Affairs prides itself in being fair and balanced. It will never compromise its integrity, credibility and the viewers' trust in favor of anyone.

"We also refer to a portion of your column where you mentioned that GMA and its competitor are basically 'copying each other.'

"GMA has always introduced innovative programs in News and Public Affairs and Entertainment, primarily to please its viewers, whom the network considers as 'Boss.' For example, if data indicate that a particular time slot attracts mostly housewives, then it would be unthinkable to air anime programs.

"GMA News and Public Affairs introduced the wish-giving format for a full-length program in 'Wish Ko Lang,' which was launched last year.' 'I-Witness: The GMA Documentaries' launched in 1999, was the first full-length documentary program on Philippine television. Moreover, we always strive to be first in the delivery of news. For instance, GMA was the first to send a news team to Iraq in anticipation of the war. We also introduced innovations in the way news is delivered—whether in the use of ENG vans for the on-the-spot news reportage, the use of vernacular in the late-night newscast, which was traditionally delivered in English, or in our anchors standing up during the time when news was traditionally delivered by anchors sitting down.

"For our entertainment programs, GMA introduced the 'Tagalized (dubbed in Filipino) version of Hollywood movies and the first real-life drama of 'triumph and success' (Magpakailanman). In 1993, GMA produced the first full-length cinematic features for television. We also introduced the first action sitcom (Kool Ka Lang!), among others. In 'Eat Bulaga,' there were and continue to be many 'firsts' in its program segments. In the end it's really the viewers who are the best judges on who's copying whom."

Gov't seen . . .

From page B1

were re-lent to Napocor. The bond issue in July fetched $2.5 billion in offers, indicating the strong appetite of investors for the sovereign borrowing.

"The government could re-open the 2014, it's their best window because other maturities are filled out," said Buenaventura.

For its part, the BSP said it had started soliciting underwriting offers for a three-year, $500-million loan this month.

"We told the market of our plans to borrow most likely on three years because it is less expensive. Anyway, this is only precautionary so if the price is good, we will take it, but if not, then we would wait for a better time," Buenaventura said.

The proceeds of the loan would be used to settle a $200-million maturing obligation this month and to beef up the country's dollar reserves that stood at $16.11 billion as of end-July.

This GIR level included more than $2 billion in reserves used as collateral for short-term loans.

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Here's Jose Pidal

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FIRST Gentleman's younger brother, Ignacio "Ignacito" Arroyo Jr., will be presented to the Senate today as Jose Pidal.

According to the grapevine, lawyer/s for Ignacito will appear in the Senate this morning to formally ask that the subpoena for Jose Pidal be served through them. Once the subpoena is served to the lawyer/s, Ignacito's counsel/s will then submit to the Senate a copy of Ignacito's statement where the younger Arroyo would own up the Union Bank account of Pidal.

"Pidal" had already told GMA Channel 7 that the Union Bank account had been closed in August 2001, contrary to the claim of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson that it contained millions of pesos as of July 2003. In addition, Bank of the Philippine Islands already disclosed that it had absolutely no Jose Pidal account, again contrary to the Lacson claim.

According to the grapevine, GMA reporter Arnold Clavio knew the identity of Pidal but agreed not to disclose his real name until after Pidal's lawyer/s shall have presented themselves to the Senate today.

Ignacito Arroyo, a Negros haciendero who is said to be a better businessman than his more famous brother, is the Lakas chair for Western Visayas. Ignacito earlier reported having donated P5 million to the 1998 campaign of his sister-in-law, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

He is also the husband of Alicia Rita Morales-Arroyo, the current chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange. (Morales-Arroyo did not return our phone calls.)

An added twist to the Pidal story is that former President Estrada supposedly got wind of the exclusive Channel 7 interview hours before the Friday evening telecast and, from his hospital detention, called up Clavio himself to plead that the story be withheld.

Clavio and Channel 7 did not succumb to the alleged ex-presidential entreaty and newscaster Mike Enriquez himself denies the alleged Erap call. (If the Erap leak is correct, it means someone within the GMA 7 newsroom has his/her loyalty somewhere else. But that is another story.)

What is certain is that Channel 7 will air in tonight's evening newscast part 2, a la Lacson "striptease," of its excellent Jose Pidal exclusive.

Untangling cable confusion

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has shot down Sky Cable's practice of unilaterally re-broadcasting the free TV and UHF channels to the cable equivalent of Siberian wasteland.

In a decision dated Aug. 27, 2003, NTC Commissioner Armi Jane Borje and Deputy Commissioners Kathleen Heceta and Jorge Sarmiento ordered Sky Cable, as well as Home Cable and the provincial cable stations, to return the VHF and UHF channels to their same-channel assignments or the next nearest channel.

The NTC decision was prompted by a suit filed by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas and GMA-7 against the Lopez-controlled Central CATV, operator of Sky Cable, after Sky in February re-scrambled the cable channels.

A major beef of the KBP is that Sky consigned the free UHF channels like those of Ramon Jacinto's, the Iglesia ni Cristo's, and Ang Dating Daan's to the higher-numbered, but weaker cable channels even way past the Chinese and Russian stations.

Subic's electrifying news

FACTORIES and houses within Subic Bay Freeport should have cheaper and more reliable power supply soon.

Subic Freeport Administrator Felicito Payumo said the impending rehabilitation of the power plant should also make electricity within the base cheaper by 40 centavos/kilowatt-hour.

With the onset of the rainy season, industry locators have been complaining about power fluctuations and even outright outages.

Payumo explained that most of Subic's power lines are "old and bare," having not been replaced since the US Navy days.

The rehabilitation of the Subic power will be undertaken by the publicly listed Aboitiz Equity Ventures, which won the privatization bidding. The hitch is that the award papers, according to the grapevine, seem to have still been stuck in Malacañang.

Heard through the grapevine

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Coco oil exports up 37%

COCONUT oil exports rose 37 percent to 101,800 tons in August compared with actual shipments of 74,392 tons in the same month last year, preliminary reports of the United Coconut Association of the Philippines showed.

The initial export numbers in August brought to 758,854 tons the volume shipped out in the first eight months of the year, up 25 percent from 606,127 tons in the same period last year, the Ucap said in a report. *Reuters*

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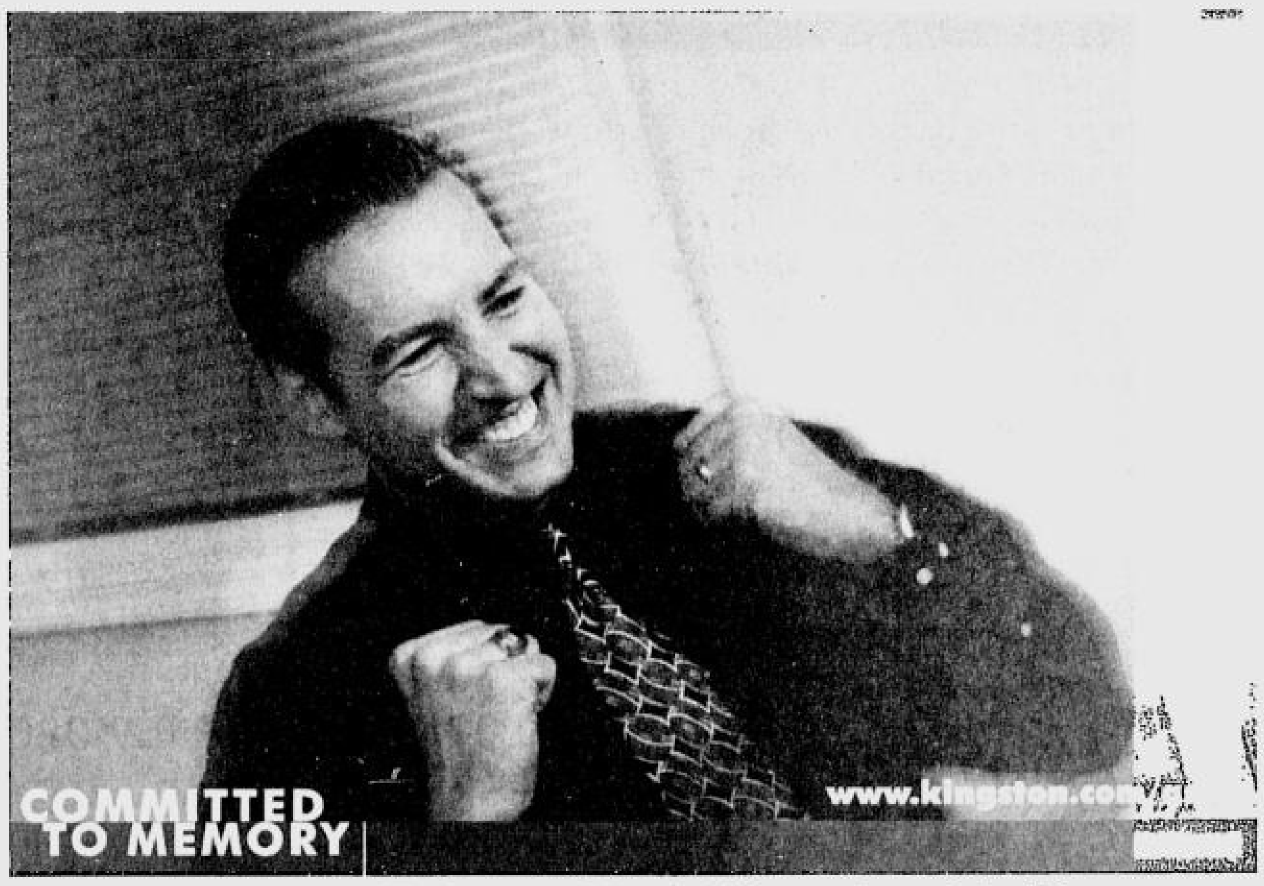

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Exporters, ecozone firms urged to report fund statements in dollars

By Doris C. Dumlao

EXPORTERS, special economic zone locators and other companies which earn and spend in foreign currency must start reporting their financial statements in dollars ahead of the 2005 mandatory implementation of the International Accounting Standards.

This was the call made by PricewaterhouseCoopers Philippines partner Alexander Cabrera in a keynote speech before the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Public Practice (Acpapp) last week, emphasizing the basic rule that accounting should be reflective of the actual transaction.

He noted that the traditional system of reporting in pesos was bane to heavy dollar users as this resulted in artificial foreign exchange losses or gains arising from a peso depreciation or appreciation.

Despite the recent issuance of a Bureau of Internal Revenue ruling allowing the use of dollar-denominated financial statements, Cabrera noted that some people were hesitant to adopt this practice.

"What makes the BIR ruling very logical is the fact that it accepts that most foreign exchange gains and losses recorded in the books and for tax purposes are merely artificial or paper gains and losses, which, if not for accounting treatment, would not be recognized in the first place," Cabrera said.

"In Tax law, whatever is the taxpayer's accounting income should be followed for tax purposes, in the absence of specific rules to the contrary. This is the reason why the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) is the foundation for the BIR allowing the use of dollar financial statements," he said.

In the case of local subsidiaries of foreign companies, for instance, the foreign exchange losses and gains from the old accounting treatment were not reflected upon consolidation with their parent firms.

As such, he said the old system did not reflect the true performance of these subsidiaries.

"We don't have to wait for 2005, when the IAS21 takes mandatory effect, to implement this," he said.

It took PwC Philippines-Joaquin Cunanan & Co., representing the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines, two years to get a favorable BIR ruling allowing the use of foreign currency in financial statements.

2nd quarter good news, bad news

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

TRUE to expectations, the overall economic performance for the second quarter of this year failed to match that of the first quarter, based on the official national income accounts released late last week. Growth of domestic production slowed down to 3.2 percent over last year, which is the lowest it has been since the third quarter of 2001. But then it was in the second quarter when the economies of the region were beset with difficulties brought about by the US-Iraq war, the SARS epidemic, and the lingering El Niño, all of which were beyond our control.

To be sure, our own internal peace and order problems also hampered investor confidence in the country. Taken against this perspective, the second-quarter performance was actually quite respectable, especially if one considers that this was better than that posted by some of our traditionally strong neighbors like Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea.

Still, it fell short of the performance of other immediate neighbors like Malaysia (4.4 percent) and Indonesia (3.8 percent), and was no match to China's 6.7 percent.

A closer look at the numbers released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) yields the usual mix of good news and bad news. Below are some that are worthy of note.

Second-quarter growth was actually better than that of the first quarter if corrected for seasonality. After removing the effect of seasonal trends, second-quarter output growth actually represented a reversal of a quarter-on-quarter decline posted in the first quarter.

The seemingly good year-on-year numbers of the first quarter actually masked the fact that output had declined (-0.5 percent) in comparison to the fourth quarter of 2002, after correcting for seasonality.

This is what statisticians call "quarter-on-quarter" growth. It is therefore good news that second-quarter output posted a positive 0.1 percent improvement over the first quarter.

What this means is that once seasonal factors are taken out, the domestic economy was actually stronger in the second quarter than in the first quarter. And this is even more impressive when taken in the light of the multiple pressures described above.

It is worth noting that the annual growth figure reported by the US and many other economies is based on such a quarter-on-quarter output assessment, after adjusting for seasonality and annualizing the number.

Our practice has been to report it as growth of output in the quarter compared to the same quarter a year ago ("year-on-year"), which automatically eliminates the seasonal effect, but doesn't give us a clear picture of quarter-to-quarter trends.

Nonetheless, NSCB has also been reporting the seasonally corrected quarter-on-quarter figures for a number of years now, though with lesser prominence.

Finance and real estate continued to accelerate, and manufacturing continued to grow respectably.

Finance speeded up to 6 percent from 5.5 percent posted in the previous quarter and 4.4 percent in the same quarter a year ago. Real estate likewise improved to 3.8 percent from 3.2 percent last quarter, and reversed the 0.2 decline a year ago.

Meanwhile, manufacturing slowed somewhat to a still respectable 4.1 percent, with the full first-semester growth of 4.6 percent being a significant improvement over the 3.6-percent growth in the same period last year.

The manufacturing performance is significant in the light of declines in mainstay export products like electronics and electrical machinery.

All these ought to be good news for the banks, as these are the sectors that avail themselves of bank loans most actively, apart from the services sector.

The recent improvement in loan growth reported by the Bangko Sentral is thus consistent with these sectoral performances.

Personal consumption posted its fastest growth since mid-1997, while government consumption posted a steep drop. Personal consumption continued to surge, fueled by low inflation and the sustained growth in overseas remittances.

This managed to offset the steep drop in government consumption expenditures (-8.7 percent), which is the worst performance recorded for almost two decades.

The decline reflects the severe government belt-tightening to keep within the deficit targets. Economic Secretary Romulo Neri believes this to have had the positive result of improved business confidence. But it takes much more than keeping the government deficit in check to win business confidence. The "political noise" many of us lament is probably negating whatever confidence we are buying with belt-tightening.

Thus, it is not clear whether sacrificing expenditures at this time on vital services like education and health for the sake of business confidence is really worth it.

Overall investment has dropped, largely because of the steep decline in government construction. The rather steep drop in public construction (-22.3 percent) is the most severe in more than a decade.

Not even a 6.5-percent growth in durable equipment, a 3.7-percent growth in agricultural investments and a modest build-up in inventories could offset the decline.

What should worry us all about this is that longer-term growth prospects of the economy are being compromised by our lack of infrastructure—and it is well known how far behind we have fallen on this vis-à-vis our neighbors.

Given the way improving revenue collections have kept the government deficit well below target by over P20 billion, it is time for government to reassess whether it has been over-tightening on the expenditure side.

It is becoming clearer that this has come at the heavy cost of reduced human welfare and impaired longer-term growth prospects due to our inability to provide for our already lagging vital infrastructure investments.

Again, the debate on this would center on economic and social considerations on one hand, and financial considerations on the other. I will leave that debate between economists and finance specialists to a later column.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2447, Series of 2003

Gov't expenditure seen to exceed ceiling in Aug.

By Clarissa S. Batino

GOVERNMENT spending in August likely exceeded the ceiling by more than P3 billion. Unless it was offset by strong revenue collection, the expenditure level could push the budget deficit to more than the P8.115-billion target for the month.

The Bureau of Customs said last week that collection slowed down in August due to the demoralization of its workforce following the lifestyle checks being conducted by the government.

If revenues failed to overshoot goals, the government could miss its fiscal gap target in August for the first time since March.

From April to July, the gap between revenue and spending has been kept below targets, enabling the government to contain the deficit at P95.4 billion, or well below the seven-month ceiling of P119 billion.

"Most likely, we exceeded the target by more than P3 billion as we continued to settle account payables. But on a cumulative basis, I think the expenditure level is still on track of the target," said Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin in an interview.

The government must contain its expenditure level at P59.57 billion while revenue must reach at least P51.455 billion during the month to meet the deficit target.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue must deliver P37.972 billion while the Customs must collect P8.72 billion. Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said last week that as of Wednesday, tax and tariff collections lagged behind the target by P700 million.

"We were able to limit the deficit because of strong collection and disciplined spending in the past few months. This gives us flexibility to spend more now and pay our obligations," said the budget chief.

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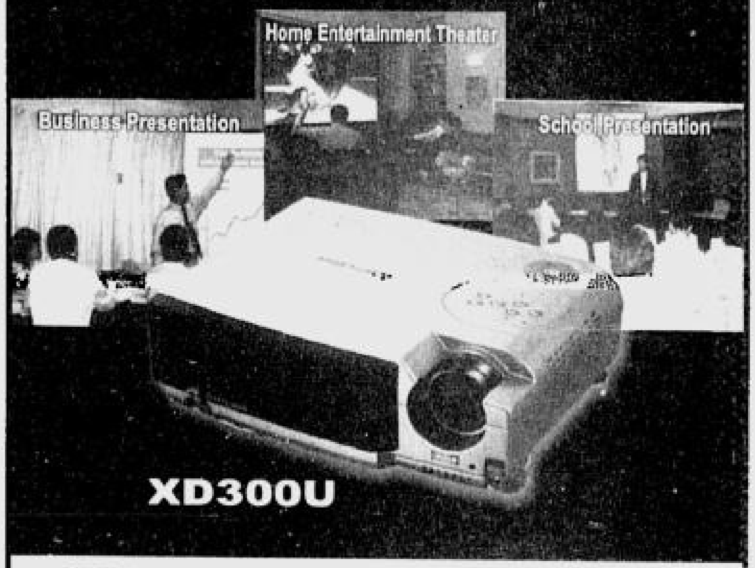

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As of September 1, 2003

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A	1,350,000	1,200,000
Baguio Country Club	750,000	600,000
Canyon Woods	160,000	100,000
Capitol Hills	-	135,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	160,000
Club Filipino	170,000	130,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	260,000/150,000**	240,000
Eastridge	80,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	320,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	11,000,000*
Manila Polo	2,350,000	2,100,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	480,000/630,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	300,000*	100,000
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	250,000	-
Phil. Columbian	70,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	130,000/165,000*/580,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	375,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,400,000/1,650,000*	1,300,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	340,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	800,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	650,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	130,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	-	Pls. Call

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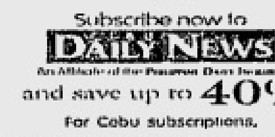

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ATR-Kim Eng unit seeks joint venture partner

By Doris C. Dumlao

SUCAT Land Corp., a wholly owned property unit of ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp., is evaluating various offers to undertake a joint-venture development of its 9.7-hectare prime property along the South Super Highway in Muntinlupa.

Publicly-listed ATR-Kim Eng Financial announced during its stockholders' meeting last week that Sucat Land had now appointed LandExcel Consulting Inc. to undertake a "highest" and "best use" study and Palafox Associates to prepare the conceptual master plan and conceptual architectural design for the property.

The land was the previous manufacturing site of Firestone and Goodrich Tires, whose manufacturer Philtread Holdings Corp. was acquired by the ATR-Kim Eng group and used as a backdoor listing vehicle on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"Sucat Land has received letters of interest from various institutions who wish to undertake joint-venture agreements for the development of the property," ATR-Kim Eng said in a disclosure to the PSE on Friday.

"Under a joint-venture arrangement, Sucat Land envisions that it will be the landowner/developer and the joint-venture partner will contribute the construction, technical and marketing expertise and provide and/or arrange the funding for the development of the property," it added.

The outputs from the studies commissioned by Sucat Land will be integrated in the course of developing a master development plan for the property, which carried a book value of about P500 million or P5,000 per square meter.

"The appointment of LandExcel Consulting and Palafox Associates represents the initial step toward the conversion and development of Sucat Land's strategically located property, which will generate optimal values for the company," ATR-Kim Eng said.

LandExcel's expertise lies in the conceptualization, planning, and implementation of major real estate projects in the country. Among its many clients were Filinvest Land Inc., Laguna Property Holdings Inc., Sta. Lucia Realty, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Robinson's Land Inc., and John Hay Development Corp.

Weak trading...

From page B1

trigger a technical bounce.

The market would likely test the support at 1,180 after the heavy foreign selling seen on Friday, he said.

Macapagal said the political maneuverings ahead of the 2004 presidential elections, aggravated by the resignation of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, were weighing down on investor sentiment.

The market was also disappointed with the lower-than-expected domestic economic growth for the second quarter announced last week.

"Another factor is the lifting of the tiering system by the Bangko Sentral, which was designed to siphon off excess liquidity that is being used to speculate against the peso," Macapagal said. "But this may affect funds which are supposed to be put in the stock market."

The lifting of the tiering system tightens liquidity because it will effectively increase the BSP's overnight borrowings rates, thereby encouraging banks to park funds with the institution.

Joseph Roxas, president of Eagle Equities Inc., agreed that the outlook was bearish for this week based on technical indicators.

"The ghost month is over but the market is showing a head-and-shoulders (a topping pattern) with a neckline at 1,197. That is so bad because once this (neckline) is breached, it will really go down," he said.

BPI Securities said the market's immediate support was at 1,170 and then at 1,140.

"The market, however, is nearing the oversold level and this suggests that a technical bounce is near," it said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Cocktales . . .

From page B3

able excise tax structure now in place, Toyota will most likely bring the Previa, Prado and Land Cruiser models back into the country. The introduction of the luxury Lexus models is also in the marketing pipeline.

Ford, meanwhile, has reversed its decision to kill Mazda when the US automotive company entered the country. Ford now wants to revive the Japanese subsidiary through the introduction of Mazda's hot, higher-end cars, a strategy that Ford successfully employed when it returned to the Philippines after fleeing the Marcos hardship years.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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BUYING Alabang A/B 1,250/1,350 Baguio Country Club 650,000 Camp John Hay Golf 220,000 Canlubang Golf 450,000 [illegible]	Eastridge A/B/C [illegible] Evercrest B/C Pls call Forest Hills A/B/C 180/200/220 Manila Golf Indv./Corp Pls call Manila Southwoods A/B [illegible]	Mimosa C [illegible] Sta. Elena A/B Pls call Tagaytay Highlands Golf/Club [illegible] Tagaytay Midlands 700,000 Valley Golf 270,000 Wack Wack Pls call

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 29, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.5	17.5	163,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	40	41	1,679,300
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	500
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	32.5	31	31.5	481,800
First E-Bank Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29	27	27	485,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	15,300
Security Bank Corp.	19	19.25	18.75	19.25	4,159,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	127,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	906,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1610	1605	1605	310
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	3,271,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1180	1185	1175	1180	1,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	24	24	15,000
Diversified Fin. Network	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.55	0.59	0.55	0.59	2,560,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	620	615	620	72,310
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	12,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	2,100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	545	545	535	535	264,820
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.4	70,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	7,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13.25	12.5	12.5	492,600
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	20.5	20	20	1,533,900
Petron Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.88	1.88	5,730,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.3	119,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	6,092,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	60,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	8,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	17	17	567,200
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	55	54.5	55	59,400
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	62	63	394,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.6	5.9	212,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	230,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.2	4.25	3,047,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	30,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	26,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	40,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.62	1.68	31,000
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	2.38	2.38	2.3	2.3	11,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.53	0.54	23,280,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	530,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.5	17.75	17	17	985,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	10,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	498,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	47,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.87	0.89	0.86	0.86	6,470,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,630,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,970,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	230,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	600,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION& TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1,200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	3,500
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	210,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.53	2,710,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	530,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	24	24	168,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,900
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	20,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.8	10,093,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	400,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	660,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	1,050,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.225	2,310,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.97	10,510,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	11,417,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	52,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	49,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	9,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.165	0.23	0.165	0.23	130,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	11,348,620	190,773,505.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	146,903,830	352,816,025.00
PRO	36,650,000	132,467,500.00
Mining	105,000,000	371,200.00
OIL	24,190,000	240,950.00
GRAND TOTALS :	324,092,450	676,669,180.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	411.61	DOWN 11.34
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,751.30	DOWN 22.19
PRO	511.23	DOWN 22.55
Mining	1,210.08	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.41	UP 0.03
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	768.04	DOWN 11.71
Composite	1,192.83	DOWN 25.59

NO. OF ADVANCES: 9; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 90; NO. OF TRADES: 2,502

CURRENCIES

August 29, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.918780	1.000000	55.113000
Japan	Yen	0.007838	0.008531	0.470200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.449651	1.577800	86.957300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.117808	0.128222	7.066700
Switzerland	Franc	0.649544	0.706964	38.962900
Canada	Dollar	0.659191	0.717463	39.541500
Singapore	Dollar	0.524148	0.570483	31.441000
Australia	Dollar	0.586742	0.638610	35.195700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.437276	2.652731	146.200000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.245008	0.266667	14.696800
Brunei	Dollar	0.522658	0.568861	31.351600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.022355	0.024331	1.341000
UAE	Dirham	0.250178	0.272294	15.006900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.088400	59.985000
Brazil	Real	0.311239	0.338753	18.669700
Denmark	Kroner	0.134602	0.146501	8.074100
India	Rupee	0.020070	0.021844	1.203900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.241816	0.263193	14.505400
Mexico	New Peso	0.083140	0.090490	4.987200
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523163	0.569411	31.381900
Norway	Kroner	0.120424	0.131070	7.223700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015921	0.017328	0.955000
Korea	Won	0.000780	0.000849	0.046800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026920	0.029300	1.614800

INTEREST RATES

August 29, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 29-Aug-03	MART1 28-Aug-03
1 Month	6.0446	5.9554
3 Months	6.1733	6.0967
6 Months	6.6536	6.5268
1 Year	8.2567	8.1967
2 Years	9.7717	9.7267
3 Years	10.4367	10.4217
4 Years	10.7717	10.75
5 Years	11.125	11.1018
7 Years	11.5633	11.595
10 Years	11.9217	11.8967
20 Years	12.2167	12.2217
25 Years	12.4833	12.4839

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

Insurance against robbery

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE ROBBERY of Citibank Makati branch last week was brazen as it was daring. Going to and from work, I pass by the bank four times daily. Traffic is always heavy throughout the day. The bank is heavily guarded. How the robbers pulled the heist is Hollywood stuff.

I can bet whatever the robbers hauled was fully covered by insurance. There is surely a specially designed policy on file at the Citibank New York headquarters covering practically every conceivable loss on a worldwide basis. Depositors and shareholders have nothing to worry about.

But what of the local businesses? What policy can they get to protect themselves from any loss resulting from robbery? The most common form available is the comprehensive money, securities and payroll policy.

The policy covers loss of money not only because of robbery but also such perils as fire, earthquake, typhoon and flood. Money is covered inside and outside the premises of the insured. The coverage outside premises covers holdup, accidents to the carrying vehicle or to the employee.

A limit of liability is set for money inside the insured's premises. This amount covers cash collections and the petty cash fund. The limit is set at the maximum level of cash. Usually this is the amount kept after banking hours and over the weekend. The peak season should also be taken into account in determining this limit.

A separate limit of liability is set for cash outside the premises. This refers to cash on the way to the bank to be deposited or on the way to the premises after having been withdrawn from the bank. Cash in the hands of field salesmen and collectors can also be covered.

The third limit of liability is set for the payroll. The coverage starts as soon as an employee, say the cashier, gets hold of the cash at the bank, continues until the cash arrives at the

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Altai set to restart drilling activities

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed Altai Mining Corp. to resume its mining exploration activities in Negros Oriental, which will involve P26 million in new investment.

The DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau said Altai Mining, through project exploration contractor Crew Minerals Philippines Inc., could now resume its exploration activities in the towns of Tanjay, Amlan, Pamplona and Sibulan, Negros, Oriental for possible sulfur deposits.

Altai Mining is under an Option Agreement with Crew Minerals, a Canadian firm. This means Crew Mining can go into mining production if the project site would prove to have significant mine reserves.

According to Mines supervising science research specialist Levy S. Teodoro, Crew Minerals is allowed to explore some 3,737 hectares owned by Altai Mining and conduct preliminary field tests and technical investigation.

Other mining exploration permits earlier granted by the DENR-Mines Bureau included the projects of eight firms involving exploration of gold, copper, silver and chromite in Surigao del Norte, Southern Leyte and Zambales. The said projects involved some P200 million in investments.

The subsidiaries of Australian mining firm Oxiana Resources—Manila Mining Corp., Buena Suerte Mining Corp., and Oro Philippine Ventures Inc.—will infuse nearly P80 million into their current exploration activities in Surigao del Norte and Southern Leyte.

Crau Mineral Resources Corp., a partner of Australian firm Kinloc Mining Co., is also undertaking exploration work in Sta. Cruz and Candelaria, Zambales. It will pour in P63 million in the 7-ha permit area that is expected to produce chromite and other minerals from the platinum group.

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DAY 1: September 3, 2003 – Wednesday
- Session 1: Shimadzu's Latest Analytical Technology for Food Applications
  (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Shimadzu Phils. Corp.
- Session 2: Bread Making Seminar
  (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Pilmico Foods Corp./ Pilmico-Mauri Foods
- Session 3: New Generation Gyrocompact Spiral Freezer & Stein International "M" Fryer
  (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: FMC FOODTECH
- Session 4: Taylor Soft Serve Machine & Frosty Boy Soft Serve Mix Product Presentation
  (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Technolux Equipment and Supply Corp.
- Session 5: "There is more to X-Ray Technology, than just Metal Detection for Food Industries"
  (4:00 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Clearpack Phils., Inc.
- Session 6: Automation Technology Training on Engineers & Technicians for Food & Packaging Machineries
  (4:00 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Intercoastal Int'l. Technologies

DAY 2: September 4, 2003 – Thursday
- Session 7: "Tips on How to Start Your New Business"
  (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Handyware Phils., Inc.
- Session 8: One Factory Team!
  (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Handyware Phils., Inc.
- Session 9: Food Safety to HACCP
  (4:00 to 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.
- Session 10: Sealed Air Brings A New to the Shrinkwrapping Applications
  (5:30 to 7:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Clearpack Phils., Inc.
- Session 11: Proper Labelling Machines
  (5:30 to 7:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Willshine Enterprise Company

September 5, 2003 – Friday
- Session 12: Efficient & Safe Boiler Operation for the Food & Beverage Industry
  (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Enertech Systems Industries, Inc.
- Session 13: Developments on Functional Foods & Neutraceuticals
  (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Henkel Philippines, Inc.
- Session 14: Food Safety of Genetically Modified Corn & Soy Beans in the Philippines
  (4:00 TO 5:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Monsanto Phils., Inc.
- Session 15: Flexible Packaging Solutions
  (5:30 to 7:00 PM) Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: Clearpack Phils., Inc.
- Session 16: Marketing Your Way Through Packaging
  (5:30 to 7:00 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: San Miguel Packaging Products, Inc.

September 6, 2003 – Saturday
- Session 17: Mechanical Elements for Assembly & Conveyors
  (1:00 to 2:30 PM) Seminar Room 2
  Presented by: Intercoastal Int'l. Tech. Corp
- Mega Profits in the Coffee Business
  Session 18 (2:30 to 4:00 PM) Seminar Room
  Presented by: Allegro Beverage Corp.

ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO
TECHNICAL SEMINAR
World Trade Center Metro Manila
September 4 - 6, 2003

September 4, 2003
- Franchise 101: Growing Your Business Thru Franchising
  9:00 AM to 5:00 PM / Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: GMB Franchise Developers

September 5, 2003
- Franchise 102: Investing In A Franchise
  9:00 AM to 5:00 PM / Seminar Room 1
  Presented by: GMB Franchise Developers

September 6, 2003
- Franchise 103: Franchise Relations & Legal Issues
  9:00 AM to 4:00 PM / Seminar Room 1
  Presented by International Legal Advocates & GMB Franchise

NATIONAL COFFEE
TECHNICAL SEMINAR / PRODUCT
World Trade Center Metro Manila
September 4 - 6, 2003

September 4, 2003
- Coffee 101 – How to Brew a Perfect Cup of Coffee
  9:00 AM to 12:00NN / Seminar Room 2
  Presentor(s) : Ms. Parita U. Juan / Mr. Robert Francisco

September 5, 2003
- Basic Coffee Farming: How to Choose & Manage a Coffee
  9:00 AM to 12:00 NN / Seminar Room 2
  Presentor(s) : Dr. Alejandro C. Mojica

September 6, 2003
- Coffee 101 – How to Brew a Perfect Cup of Coffee
  9:00 AM to 12:00NN / Seminar Room 2
  Presentor(s) : Ms. Parita U. Juan / Mr. Robert Francisco

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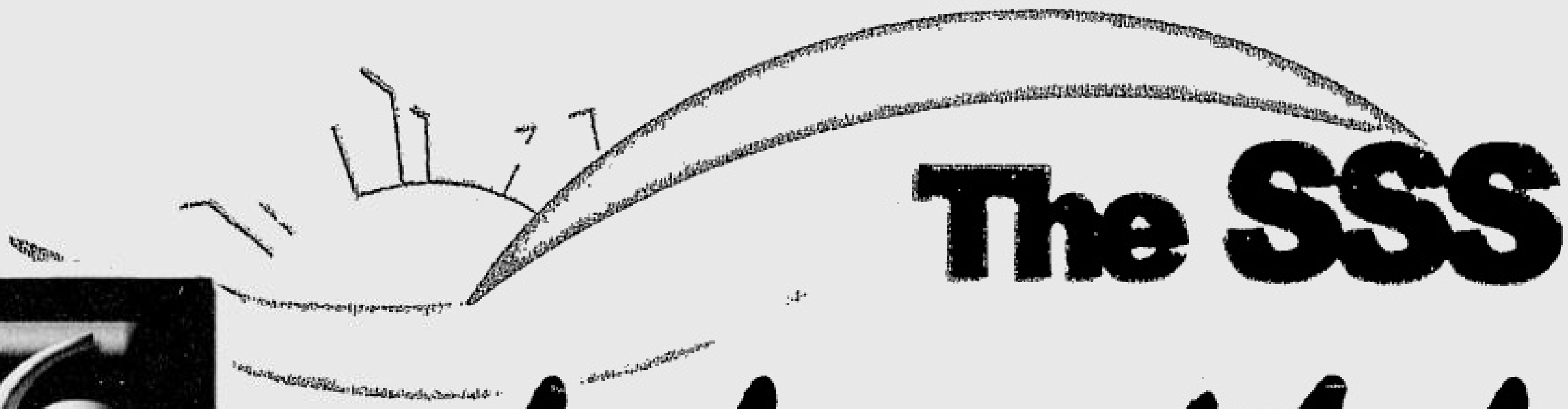


The SSS in 2

# of faithful

Senate President Franklin Drilon keynotes SSS 46th Anniversary rites

Senate President Franklin M. Drilon is the guest of honor during the 46th anniversary program of the Social Security System (SSS) today at the SSS headquarters in Quezon City. Senator Drilon is expected to formally open the SSS Anniversary Exhibit and Open House, as well as to keynote the Anniversary Program.

With the theme "Ikaw at ang SSS: Magkabalikat sa Republikang Matatag at Maunlad", the SSS anniversary is a weeklong celebration of 46 years of social security protection for Filipino workers and their families.

The formal anniversary program takes place on Monday, September 1, which will be highlighted by the **8th Balikat ng Bayan Awards** for companies and institutions that have helped the SSS in furthering its mandate of social security protection. A **Thanksgiving Mass** and luncheon will follow at noon, and the **SSS Employees' Program** follows in the afternoon.

Starting Tuesday, September 2, the SSS will hold a nationwide free **Medical and Dental Outreach Program** for its members. Doctors, dentists and nurses from the SSS Health Care Department will be treating patients and dispensing free medicines at the Members Assistance Center in Quezon City. This outreach program will be replicated in SSS branches in the following areas: Makati, Alabang, Manila, Pasig, San Pablo, Tarlac, Dagupan, Baguio, Bicol, Tacloban, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos, Butuan and Zamboanga.

Finally, the Anniversary Week culminates on September 5, with the **33rd Art Exhibit at the SSS Gallery**, featuring the works of the talented Orobia Family of artists.

September 1-7, 2003 declared "Social Security Week"

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently issued Proclamation No. 440 declaring the period September 1 to 7, 2003 as "Social Security Week". The said Proclamation aimed to make the celebration of the 46th Anniversary of the Social Security System more meaningful and relevant to the public.

The Proclamation noted that, "(I)t is in the national interest to stimulate public awareness on the matters and issues involving social security protection and to encourage every citizen to take personal responsibility in uplifting their economic and social conditions through their active membership in the SSS". It was deemed that, "in celebrating Social Security Week, there is a need to highlight the role of the SSS in developing and promoting a viable, universal and equitable social security protection scheme through world-class service."

Finally, the Proclamation cited that the activities and programs marking the SSS Anniversary "will focus on promoting the importance of membership in the SSS, the programs and benefits available to SSS members, and the role of SSS in nation building", and thus all national and local government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, government financing institutions, the mass media and the entire citizenry are enjoined to extend their support and cooperation to the SSS.

SSS Week Program

September 1: Anniversary Program

Part 1 FLAG RAISING CEREMONY (8:00 am at SSS Grounds)

Part 2 OPENING OF EXHIBITS (SSS G/F Lobby)

Part 3 BALIKAT NG BAYAN AWARDS (9:00 am at RM Hall, 2/F)

EMPLOYEES' PROGRAM (2:00 pm at RM Hall, 2/f)

September 2: Start of Free Medical and Dental Mission at selected SSS offices nationwide

September 1-5: Open House at the SSS Q.C. main lobby

September 5: Opening of Art Exhibit (3:00 pm at The Gallery 2/F)

Since its founding in 1957, the Social Security System (SSS) has been a dependable partner of the Filipino worker and his family. It has provided financial support in times of need and its investments have helped invigorate and spur the Philippine economy. Through the years, as its coverage expanded and its programs developed and sustained, the SSS evolved into an organization capable of servicing its members nationwide and in key cities overseas. In the past 46 years, the SSS has hurdled many obstacles that tested its resilience and strengthened its foundation. At present, the SSS is setting the stage for good governance, continuously improving quality of service for members, helping to generate economic activity, and rebuilding the strength of its financial resources.

Today, September 1, 2003, the SSS celebrates its 46th Anniversary with the theme, "Ikaw at ang SSS: Magkabalikat sa Republikang Matatag at Maunlad". The theme takes off from the vision of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in building a Strong Republic for the Philippines. The Anniversary theme celebrates the role of SSS as a constant ally of all working Filipinos, a strong shoulder upon which they can rely, as they build the foundation for a better life for themselves, their families, and for the nation.

Institutional Philosophy:

The SSS Mission is spelled out in Section 2 of Republic Act 8282, otherwise known as the Social Security Act of 1997, to wit:

> "It is the policy of the State to establish, develop, promote and perfect a sound and viable tax-exempt social security system suitable to the needs of the people throughout the Philippines, which shall promote social justice and provide meaningful protection to members and their beneficiaries against the hazards of disability, sickness, maternity, old age, death and other contingencies resulting to loss of income or financial burden. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to extend social security protection to workers and their beneficiaries.'

In terms of Vision, the SSS aims to develop and promote a viable, universal and equitable social protection scheme, delivered through world-class service.

SSS FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Assets and Investments:

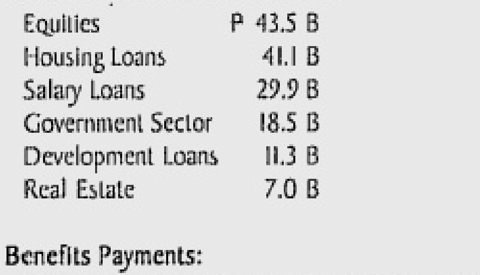
As of end of June 2003, the SSS consolidated assets totaled to P167.4 billion. Some P151.4 billion of this amount are invested in various investment instruments as follows:

Equities	P 43.5 B
Housing Loans	41.1 B
Salary Loans	29.9 B
Government Sector	18.5 B
Development Loans	11.3 B
Real Estate	7.0 B

Benefits Payments:

In the last 46 years, SSS has paid a total of P310 billion in benefits to members and their beneficiaries. From January to June 2003, it has granted to some 482,594 members a total of P19.7 billion worth of benefits, comprised of:

Retirement Benefits	P 8.46 B
Death Benefits	6.97 B
Disability Benefits	1.58 B
Maternity Benefits	1.10 B
Funeral Grants	.87 B
Sickness Benefits	.73 B
Medical Rehabilitation Services	.04 B



Membership Coverage:

As of June 2003, SSS has a total of 25.1 million members, which represents around 72.5% of the country's total 34.6 million labor force. The SSS membership is comprised of employees (19.8 million), employers (683,264), self-employed and voluntary members (4.6 million). Included in the self-employed/voluntary members are farmers and fishermen, OFWs, and non-working spouses. From January to June 2003, a total of 453,417 new registrants were added.

The SSS also has a total of 954,911 social security and EC pensioners.

The increasing number of Filipinos who depend on the SSS serves as a challenge for the institution to continually improve its services and ensure the fund's long-term viability.

Collections:

In January 2003, Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved a one-percentage point increase in the SSS contribution rate, as recommended by the Social Security Commission. This was announced through Circular no. 11-P dated February 5, 2003.

Social Security Commission: (Seated R-L) Chairman Bernardino Abes , DOLE Sec. Patricia Sto. Tomas, Juan Tan (representing labor), Vice-chairman and SSS President Corazon de la Paz. (Standing R-L) Efren Aranzamendez (representing labor), Teresita Alegre (representing management), Sergio Ortiz-Luis (representing management), Marianita Mendoza (representing labor), Donald Dee (representing management). Federation of Free Workers President Ramon Jabar was recently appointed to the SSC vice Commissioner Juan Tan.

The one-percentage point increase in the monthly contribution rate, or from 8.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent, took effect on March 1, 2003 . The employees' share remains at 3.33 per cent, while employers now bear the 6.07 per cent (up from 5.07 per cent). Self-employed and voluntary members also shoulder the new contribution rate of 9.4 per cent.

This increase in the contribution rate is aimed at extending the life of the SSS fund, with added collections seen at P400 million monthly or P4 billion for the rest of 2003. Coupled with intensified collection efforts and service enhancements, the rate increase has had a positive effect on the institution's financial performance this first six months of 2003. Contribution collections reached P18.76 billion this January to June, an increase of 12.1 per cent from the P16.74 billion collected in same period of 2002.

At the same time, benefit payments went up 3.2 per cent to P19.77 billion this first semester of 2003, from last year's benefit payments of P19.16 billion. While there is still a deficit between benefit payments and contribution collections, the SSS has at least managed to narrow that gap from a P2.4 billion deficiency in 2002, to only P1 billion so far this year.

EXPANDING AND IMPROVING SSS SERVICES

The SSS does not lose sight of the fact that service to its members remains its primary duty. It continues to roll out service initiatives that aim to make the experience of transacting with the SSS all the more convenient, pleasant and speedier for members. The SSS is also conscious of the fact that much still has to be done to extend its coverage and service to other sectors of society. If it is to achieve its mandate of equitable, just and universal coverage, then the less privileged and geographically distanced sectors of society must likewise be shielded by SSS' protective mantle.

Branch Network:

To date, SSS has established a total of 156 offices nationwide and 16 offices abroad, particularly where there are large numbers of OFWs, such as: Hong Kong, Taipei, Brunei, Kuala Lumpur, Sydney, Singapore, Riyadh, Jeddah, Al-Khobar, Kuwait, Abu-Dhabi, Rome, Milan, San Francisco, and Saipan.

This expansionary move aims to bring social security protection to as many Filipinos as possible, wherever they may be.

The SSS Covenant of Service :

The Covenant of Service (COS) is the pledge of SSS to its members to significantly reduce processing times of benefit claims and loan applications. The COS strives to brings SSS closer to its long-term vision to deliver "real-time" or "while-you-wait" services to members through streamlined procedures, effective IT support, and adequately trained human resources.

The main features of the COS are 1) quality customer service: to render world class service that is prompt, accurate and courteous; 2) standardized policies and procedures; and 3) continuous innovation.

Launched in November 2001, the COS Program has succeeded in significantly reducing the processing times, as evidenced by the table below.

After a four-month pilot run, the full roll-out of the COS Program in all 119 branches was started on March 11, 2002 and completed on June 7, 2002. Phase 2 of the Program will begin within the year as soon as resources are available.

The COS Program shall also be expanded to other core functions of SSS, such as:

SSS CORE FUNCTIONS	TARGET PROCESSING TIME *(No. of Workdays)*
SS Number Issuance	Over-the-counter
E4 – Correction of Membership Info.	6
R1A – Reporting of Employees	6
Updating of SS Number Tag *(with submitted birth certificate)*	4
Updating of Coverage Type	4
R3 – Regular Contributions Processing	16
R3 Tape/Diskette Processing	5
Correction of Unpostables	10
Processing of Exception Transactions	10
Manual Verification of Contributions	10

SSS COVENANT OF SERVICE

SSS PROGRAMS	PROCESSING TIME* Before COS	COS Phase 1	COS Phase 2
1. Salary Loans	15	4	2
2. Funeral	7	5	3
3. Sickness			
Regular	14	9	6
Separated Employees/ Self-Employed/Voluntary	14	12	8
4. Maternity			
Normal/Caesarian	14	9	6
Miscarriage	14	12	8
5. Disability	35	21	7
6. Retirement	45	16	10
7. Death	48	16	10

*In No. of Workdays

003:

service

These are heavy service commitments, but they are indeed doable when the minds, hearts and hands of SSS employees are set to it.

SSS takes care of OFWs in Hong Kong. SSS employee Alfredo Recio Jr. (extreme right), attends to the concerns and needs of the over 10,500 OFW-members from his post at the Hong Kong office of SSS.

The OFW Program and the SSS Flexi-Fund

With the recent news of global conflicts, tragedies, and misfortunes befalling our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), the need for adequate social security protection for themselves and their families becomes all the more important. This is why the SSS is increasing its efforts in extending membership coverage to even more OFWs. As of June 2003, a total of 377,335 OFWs are registered SSS members and who now benefit from financial security in times of sickness, maternity, disability, retirement and death. These OFWs, majority of whom are based in Hong Kong, have collectively contributed some P306 million to SSS' coffers through their premium payments and loan amortization as of January to June 2003.

Aside from the regular benefit and loan programs made available by SSS, OFWs can also plan their financial future through the SSS Flexi-Fund Program. Launched in August 2001 as an alternative voluntary provident fund and adopted in July 2002 as the National Provident Fund for OFWs, the Flexi-Fund doubles up as a savings program that yields high returns. OFW-members must contribute to the regular SSS program at the maximum salary credit, with any excess amount being credited to the member's Flexi-Fund account. Because it is a provident fund, all amounts accumulated in the Fund, including interest, shall accrue solely to the SSS-OFW members. Flexi-Fund contributions are a supplement to the regular SSS retirement or disability benefits, and can be withdrawn in lump sum, additional pension, or a combination of both.

SSS - GLOBE
SIGNING CEREMONY
TEXT SSS
making great things possible

SSS signs up Globe for Text SSS. President Corazon de la Paz (center) signs a memorandum of agreement with Globe Telecom President Gerardo Ablaza, Jr. and Wolfpac Communications' Managing Director Myla Villanueva, formalizing Globe's participation in the Text SSS project. A similar agreement was signed with Smart Communications in late 2002.

Currently, the SSS Flexi-Fund Program continues to build up its resources. As of June 2003, the Fund totals P12.8 million, gathered from contributions of its 22,567 OFW-members.

PROGRESSIVE SERVICE INITIATIVES

As it enters its 46th year, the SSS can proudly claim that its growth is nothing less than phenomenal. In these modern times of network connectivity and information technology (IT)-powered operations, the SSS taps the latest technology to enable it to deliver prompt and efficient service at all times.

On-line Inquiry System:

The On-line Inquiry System has effectively turned the SSS web site (www.sss.gov.ph) into a virtual SSS office through which members can access their membership records and status of loan eligibility -- all on their personal computers. Since its launch in 2002, some 350,000 members have logged on and accessed their membership records through the Inquiry System, making it one of the most heavily accessed and user-friendly web sites in the country.

Text SSS:

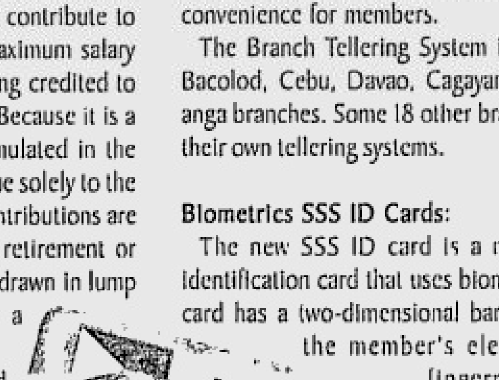
The Text-SSS is an SMS-based information service that allows members to inquire on their number of contributions, loan eligibility, and status of loan applications -- all via text messages on their mobile phones. For a minimal text messaging fee of P2.50 per inquiry, a member now has an alternate means to get information, without having to set foot in an SSS office. Text-SSS is available for Globe and Smart subscribers.

Branch Tellering System:

In response to the clamor of members for an additional avenue through which they can remit their payments, the Branch Tellering System was implemented in the SSS Tarlac Branch last year. While the majority of contributions and loan repayments remain to be remitted through banks, limited banking hours, restrictions on payment days and minimum deposits make it hard for members to meet SSS payment requirements and deadlines. The Branch Tellering System authorizes selected SSS branches to receive payments directly, thus allowing greater convenience for members.

The Branch Tellering System is now installed in the Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga branches. Some 18 other branches shall soon open their own tellering systems.

Biometrics SSS ID Cards:



The new SSS ID card is a modern, tamper-proof identification card that uses biometrics technology. The card has a two-dimensional bar code, which contains the member's electronically-captured fingerprint, photo and signature. Hailed as one of the world's most advanced identification systems, the SSS ID Card is also machine-readable, which facilitates the transactions of SSS members and their beneficiaries, and even allows self-service transactions through the SSS Info Kiosk. More importantly, the ID practically eliminates fraud and ensures that the SSS pays the right benefit to the right person.

The SSS has intensified efforts to issue the new biometrics ID cards to all members, as this is a standard requirement in all transactions with the SSS. To date, some 5,183,281 members have been issued their new biometrics ID cards.

REACHING OUT THROUGH COOPERATION AND TRANSPARENCY

Being a public trust and in keeping with its role as the Balikat ng Bayan, the SSS thrives and operates on the cooperation and support of its various stakeholders - the business and labor communities, the regulatory government sector, the current 25 million members, and countless other Filipinos who have yet to be included into the folds of SSS membership.

Continuing communication and consultation are keys to gathering agreement and support for the critical decisions that have to be made in the future with regard to sustaining the SSS' financial viability.

Touching Lives, Making a Difference

The stories below are based on true-to life experiences of SSS members and how their membership helped make their lives a little better. Through the Covenant of Service, benefits are assured and delivered on-time.

BENITA'S DISABILITY CLAIM

Mrs. Benita A. Dela Paz, 53, is a hardworking, single mother. As the Operations Manager for Visayas and Mindanao of the Rusty Lopez chain of boutiques, she constantly travels to check on the company's outlets.

In November 2001, a cystic growth was found in her uterus, which required a total hysterectomy operation. When she recovered, Benita filed a partial permanent disability claim. Armed with the required documents, she went to the SSS Members' Assistance Center on February 15, 2002 to file her disability claim. It was already lunchtime when she got to the Medical Evaluation counter but the doctor accommodated her and gave her a thorough evaluation. Her application was immediately processed thereafter.

"Nagulat ako kasi napakabilis ng processing. Akala ko aabutin ako ng buong maghapon o kinabukasan sa pagpa-file, pero madali lang pala basta kumpleto ang mga papeles na dala mo," she related. ("I was surprised because the processing was so fast. I thought it would take me the entire afternoon or until the next day just to file the claim, but it turned out to be so easy, as long as your documents are complete.")

Benita Dela Paz – a satisfied SSS member who benefited from her quickly processed disability claim.

Five days later, she was surprised to receive a phone call from an SSS employee informing her that her first pension payment was already credited to her bank account. She was relieved and overjoyed at the speed with which her claim was processed. For the next 15 months, Benita's disability pension payments helped her with her everyday expenses. Extremely happy with her experience with SSS, she constantly tells her story to her employees.

"Sinasabi ko lagi sa kanila, 'wag kayong manghinayang sa kinakaltas sa sweldo ninyo para sa SSS. Balang araw, makakatulong sa inyo ang mga benepisyo na makukuha ninyo sa SSS," Benita said. ("I always tell them, never begrudge the deductions in your paychecks for your SSS contributions. One of these days you will make use of the SSS benefits.")

* * *

RIDA'S SALARY LOAN

Mrs. Florida "Rida" D. Pedrano, 40, has been a janitress at the FAST Manpower and Allied Services Co. since 1999. The mother of four augments her income through her sidewalk *carinderia* (food stall) near the government agency where she is assigned. Office personnel, pedestrians and public transport drivers frequent her food stand.

Rida's food stall, put up through her SSS salary loan, helps augment her income.

Misfortune struck, however, when the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) stepped up its sidewalk clearing efforts in October 2002 and Rida's *carinderia* was among those torn down. Later on, the Barangay Captain allowed Rida and other stall owners to put up their stands on more permanent structures that did not clog the sidewalks.

Left with no money to rebuild her small business, Rida decided to apply for a salary loan with the SSS. She had diligently paid off her first SSS salary loan a year earlier, so she was confident that renewing it would be easy.

"Laking gulat ko kasi November 11, 2002 ako nag-file ng salary loan application. Kinabukasan, may tseke na agad! Ang bilis talaga," she said. ("I was surprised because I filed my salary loan application on November 11, 2002. The next day, the check was already available! It was really so fast!")

With her P12,000 loan, Rida was able to rebuild her carinderia and buy new equipment and utensils. She also bought a pig to fatten as an extra income source. For the speedy processing of her salary loan application, Rida wholeheartedly thanked the SSS and the personnel who processed her application.

THE CONTINUING CHALLENGES OF SSS

Extending the actuarial life of the Social Security Fund remains the primary challenge for SSS. Although the one percentage point hike in the contribution rate, from 8.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent effective March 2003, is a significant step, this is still a mere stopgap measure in resolving the imbalance between contribution and benefit levels. Following its financing scheme, the SSS must increase its contribution rate periodically to maintain its actuarial balance, as well as build up its reserves to meet benefit payments in the future. As it is, the one percentage point rate increase was the first-ever implemented in over 20 years, and it was imposed only on the contribution percentage shouldered by employers. The contribution percentage shouldered by employees has remained the same.

The rate hike is certainly a welcome relief in helping bridge the gap between contribution collection and benefit payments. However, the past over-subsidies of members by SSS through generous benefit increases without accompanying raises in the contribution rate have already weakened the Fund's long-term viability. Ultimately, the rationalization of the overall benefits structure and an alignment of entitlements to actual contributions paid are needed. However, these would require revisions to the Social Security Law and consequently, the support of legislators and stakeholders.

The SSS also realizes that its close to one million pensioners have been clamoring for an increase in their pension levels, since the last across-the-board pension increase was already two years ago. But to accomplish this, a new increase in contribution rate must be instituted.

Nevertheless, the recent minimal rate increase has netted some positive results. Contribution collections from January to July 2003 reached P22.1 billion – a notable increase of P2.5 billion or 13 per cent from collections of the same period 2002. It is hoped that this positive trend continues and that the year-end contributions target of P44 billion shall be met, if not surpassed.

In the meantime, the SSS has worked to improve collection compliance across all accounts and membership types. It has continued to develop its existing payment modes and open new payment facilities to encourage payment regularity and convenience for members. At the same time, it has expedited the posting of members' payments, offered installment payment schemes to delinquent employers, and hired and deployed a cadre of Account Officers to monitor compliance and follow-up delinquent accounts. More importantly, the SSS has doggedly gone after and prosecuted erring employers.

Notwithstanding the present weak economic climate, the SSS has also endeavored to ensure the safety and liquidity of, and higher yields from its investment holdings. In particular, it has raised income from equities and acquired properties, improved member loan collections, and implemented strategies to liquefy its P41 billion housing mortgages.

Effectively managing operating costs of the SSS is deemed critical, given that it has reached, and breached, the statutory limit on operating expenses in the past years. In this regard, reorganization and restructuring efforts, as well as cost-cutting measures have continued. At the same time, the SSS has maximized outputs from existing projects and facilities, prudently assessed branch viability, and linked individual employee performance to rewards.

The other challenges faced by the SSS are sustaining its new service initiatives, especially the various Covenant of Service (COS) commitments, and enhancing the institution's public image through improved service delivery, greater transparency and accountability to its stakeholders.

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PAL opposes US panel's code sharing plan

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Airlines Inc. has "vigorously opposed" the third-country and same-country code sharing plan that the United States' air panel has proposed.

PAL president Avelino Zapanta said granting US carriers the right to do third-country and same-country code sharing would pit Philippine carriers not just against US carriers, but also with their partners that would be using their traffic rights.

Under third-country code sharing, US flag carriers could still generate revenue from its Philippine destinations without having to mount flights here.

They could opt to strike code-sharing agreements with flag carriers from other countries that also fly to the Philippines. Revenues from these flights can then be shared between the US carrier and its partner-airlines.

Under same-country code sharing, US carriers could enter into code sharing agreements with other US carriers that still mount flights to the Philippines. Revenue will likewise be split between them.

"That's why we oppose third-country and same-country code sharing. Why would they use their partners? We want to compete with them but not with their friends," Zapanta said.

"We also compete with their partners, but on a different battleground. We don't want them flying the US traffic rights in the Philippines," he added.

RP-Singapore set to settle petrochemical tariff row

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES and Singapore are expected to finally settle their dispute over petrochemical tariffs when representatives of the two countries meet during the Asean economic ministers meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

According to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II, the two countries agreed to settle their row by invoking the emergency measures under the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) and agreeing to a formula that would be beneficial to both countries.

Asean ministers are scheduled to meet tomorrow until Thursday.

It may be recalled that Singapore protested the Philippines' failure to reduce tariffs on petrochemical products, such as polythylene, polypropylene and polyvynil chloride resins according to schedule.

Tariffs on these products were scheduled to be reduced this year to 5 percent under the Common Effective Preferential Treatment scheme of the Afta.

But instead of reducing the tariffs to 5 percent, the Philippine government has brought it down to a range of only 7 to 10 percent, from the previous 10 to 15 percent, citing the need to protect the local industry.

Singapore, which claimed to be affected by the Philippine's decision to defer its tariff reduction, has filed a complaint with the Afta Council and demanded compensation.

Roxas said the possible solution to the dispute was for the Philippines to calculate the amount of excess tariffs paid by Singapore, and then offset the amount lowering the tariff imposed on a certain petrochemical products exported by Singapore to the Philippines.

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Pre-need plan sales down 22.52% as of end-July

By Elena R. Torrijos

SALES of pre-need plans based on gross contract price were down 22.52 percent in the first seven months of this year to P18.591 billion, from close to P24 billion recorded in the same period last year, according to data from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SEC data showed that pension plans, which accounted for the bulk of the plans sold for the period, suffered a steep 37.59 percent sales decline to P9.248 billion from last year's P14.817 billion.

Sales of education plans, on the other hand, fell by 6 percent to P7.574 billion from P8 billion while sales of life or memorial plans surged 60 percent to P1.768 billion from P1.105 billion.

Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. president Miguel Vazquez said that one reason why pension plan sales have fallen was the decision of many pre-need firms to increase their selling prices.

"We've raised our prices and the effect of that is lower yields," Vazquez said.

Vazquez added that consumers may also still be wary of buying pre-need plans following negative reports that came out last year.

In terms of initial collection, pre-need sales in the first seven months dropped 16 percent to P1.929 billion from P2.3 billion.

Pension plans still accounted for the bulk of the collection during the seven-month period at P960 million, a 31-percent drop from the P1.392 billion registered in the same period last year.

Initial collection from education plans dipped 4 percent to P754 million from P786 million but sales of life plans surged by 75 percent to P215 million from P122.93 million in the same period.

The number of pre-need plans sold during the first seven months of this year fell 14 percent to 311,699. The decline was led by pension plans with only 153,675 plans sold during the period.

The number of education plans sold fell 19.8 percent to 90,055. Life plans offset the decline as the number sold during the period went up 77.6 percent to 67,969 from 38,270 last year.

In the pension plan market, Philam Plans Inc. topped other pre-need companies in sales based on gross contract price with P2.348 billion. Prudentialife Plans Inc. of the Alba family was number one in education plans with sales of P1.601 billion and also the leader in life plans with sales of P435 million.

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On 13 September 1964, ABS-CBN launched *Buhay Artista*, a loose comedy-musical format built around the lives of stage actors, and scored another coup as the first comedy-musical on Philippine television. The long-running Sunday evening hit capitalized on the strengths of "bodabil" stars Dolphy, Panchito, Ading Fernando and Teroy de Guzman. The young Dolphy, who to this day remains the unparalleled Comedy King, agreed to do *Buhay Artista* with no contract. A mere handshake with ABS-CBN owner Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr. was enough to begin and seal a relationship with the network that would last for decades.

Meanwhile, ABS-CBN aired its first sitcom *Pancho loves Tita* on 31 October 1964. Written by Ading Fernando and directed by Ben Aniceto, the hit comedy program featured the husband and wife tandem of Pancho Magalona and Tita Duran.

Other ABS-CBN comedies such as *Tang Tarangtang* starring the cantankerous but loveable Pugo, and *Oras ng Ligaya* likewise charmed Filipino viewers' with their wholesome brand of humor. *Super Laff-In* pioneered the gag show format in 1969, featuring the wacky team of Ramon Zamora, Maya Valdez and June Keithley.

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5TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Asean to adopt common negotiating positions

By Michelle V. Remo

MEMBERS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are set to adopt a common stand against perceived unfair trade practices in the multilateral trade system allegedly perpetuated by developed countries.

Asean economic ministers will meet tomorrow until Thursday in Phnom Penh, Cambodia to harmonize the member-countries' negotiating positions in the 5th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization next week in Cancun, Mexico.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the meeting among Asean economic ministers was aimed at strengthening the positions and raising common concerns of developing countries in the region on various aspects of trade, such as agriculture, investments and non-agricultural market access.

The Asean will adopt a common stand particularly against the provision of agricultural subsidies by governments of developed countries, such as the United States and the European Union. Developing countries consider this concern as one form of unfair competition since their governments cannot afford the same amount of subsidies being granted by rich countries to their farmers.

Roxas said that the Asean economic ministers were also expected to come up with a common position against "illusory" market access. He said that while some countries had been allowing in principle the entry of imported products, various non-tariff trade barriers made it difficult for exporting countries to penetrate foreign markets.

He cited the case of Philippine pineapples, which were allowed entry to Australia, but were actually having a difficult time penetrating this market due to the Australian government's "too strict" phytosanitary requirements.

The Australian government requires that Philippine pineapples be decrowned before they are allowed entry into Australia. Local pineapple growers, however, said decrowning would hasten spoilage.

Roxas said Asean members were also expected to push for the upholding of each country's Constitution as other trade areas—such as government procurement—were proposed to be further liberalized.

"We (Asean economic ministers) will try to uphold each member-country's interest, and not to surrender sovereignty to external bodies," he said in a briefing with reporters.

SkyCable told to restore channel assignments

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has given SkyCable Central CATV Inc. 10 days to restore the channel assignments of all the free-to-air channels that it repositioned in February.

In an 11-page order issued on Aug. 27, the regulatory body stood by its April 25 decision on a case filed by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas against SkyCable, effectively denying the cable firm's motion for reconsideration filed in mid-May.

"The respondent Central CATV is hereby directed, within 10 days of receipt hereof, to implement the restoration of the (free-to-air) stations in the cable systems of the respondents at the latter's facilities," the order stated.

All the repositioned free TV channels should be restored to the position they occupied under SkyCable's certificate of authority issued in October 1995.

Under this certificate of authority, the channel positions are as follows: ABS-CBN on channel 6, PTV-4 on channel 8, ABC-5 on channel 10, GMA-7 on channel 12, RPN-9 on channel 14 and IBC-13 on channel 16.

Failure to comply with the order within 10 days of its receipt could result in sanctions such as the suspension and even revocation of SkyCable's certificate of authority, licenses and permits to operate.

Earlier in the year, GMA Network Inc. lodged a complaint against SkyCable and its affiliates for alleged signal distortion, especially during the airing of top-rating shows.

PNOC-EC seen to start drilling well in Mindoro

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co.'s exploration arm, PNOC Exploration Corp., said it would likely start drilling an exploration well in offshore Mindoro by the end of the year or early next year if talks with potential foreign partners turned out favorably, a company official said.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said in an interview that the physical search for oil and gas in the area covered by geophysical survey and exploration contract (GSEC) No. 100 could start as soon as commitments from partners who could provide needed funds were obtained.

"We are in talks with several investors. We welcome participation from as many partners as possible," Bomasang said.

The official said PNOC-EC was set to hold a joint study with one of the possible partners on the technical aspects of exploration in offshore Mindoro.

Bomasang declined to name the investor, but PNOC-EC told the Philippine Stock Exchange that it was in preliminary talks with Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional Bhd or Petronas.

Bomasang added that some companies that PNOC-EC was in talks with were among the 48 firms that were represented in the Department of Energy's launch of the first petroleum contracting round in August.

Insurance . . .

From page B7

premises and ends at the time the payroll is handed over to the employees. To get rid of the risk of payroll loss, and avoid covering the payroll and paying premium on it, some employers require their employees to withdraw their salaries at the bank. Salaries of executives are automatically credited to their personal bank accounts.

The loss of checks is also covered but the insurance company will pay only what it takes to have the checks reissued. So, it is important that as soon as the loss of a check is known, the bank should be advised immediately to stop payment on it.

Using the pickup and delivery services of the bank, when this is available, will save a lot of premium. In effect, the risk of loss outside the premises is transferred to the bank, and the risk need not be included in the policy. Another way to save premium is to have a safe, especially a rated one. Hiring security guards in and outside the premises will also cut down the premiums.

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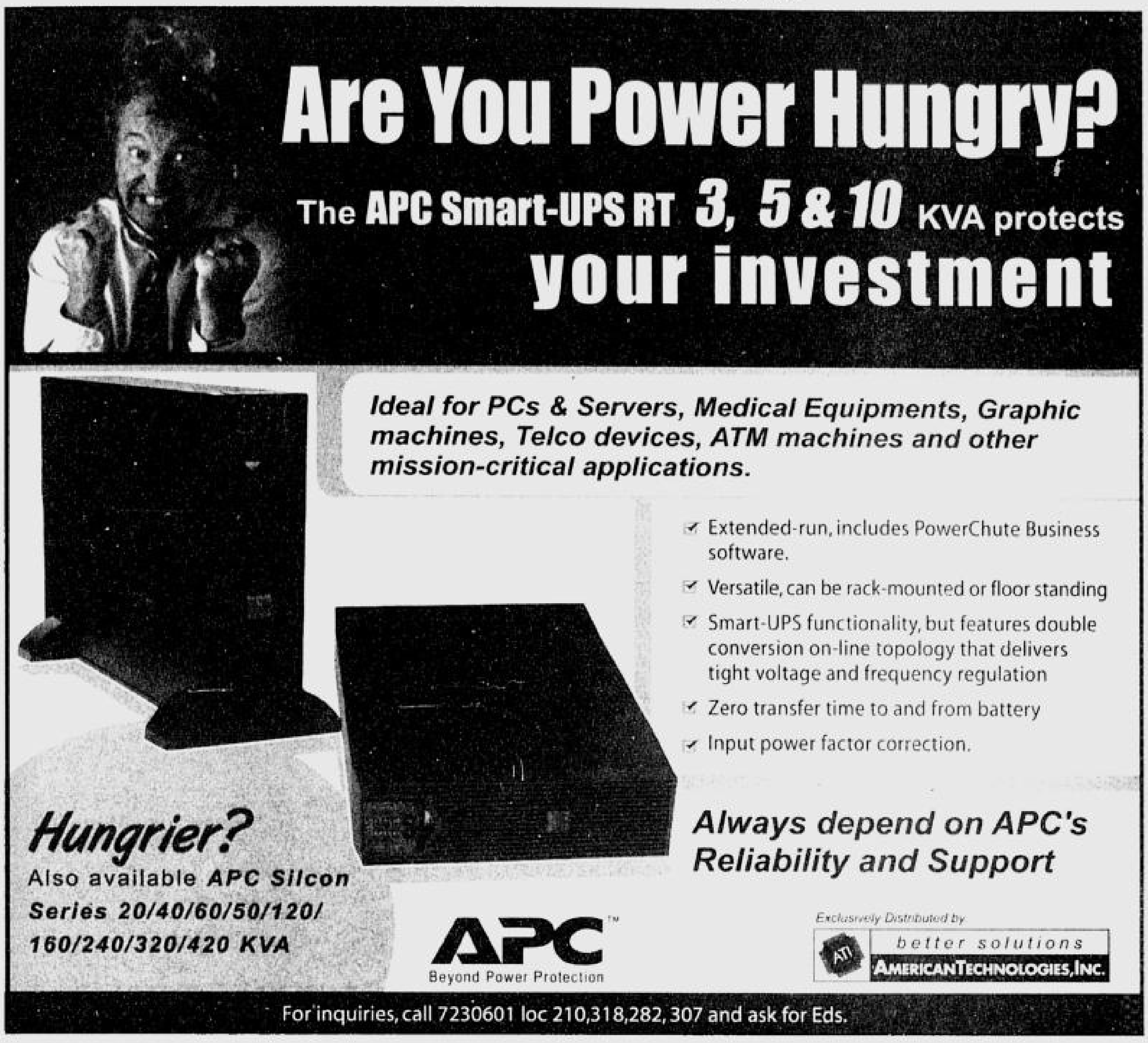

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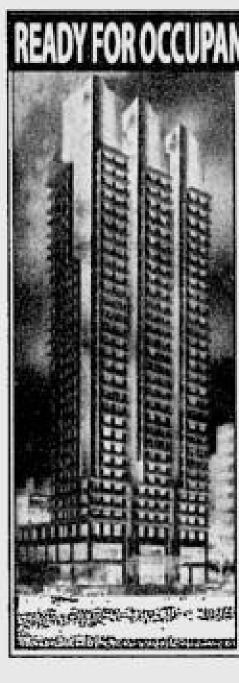

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors and Stockholders of *Nycochem, Inc. (the "Corporation")* in the Board Meeting held on **14 October 2002** and Special Stockholders' Meeting on **31 January 2003**, have dissolved the Corporation.

All persons having any claim against the said corporation are required to present their claim at its office at the UCPB Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City before 30 September 2003.

(Sgd.) BARBARA ANNE C. MIGALLOS
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Sept. 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

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"For God
so loved
the
world,
that He
gave
His
only
begotten
Son,
that
whoever
believes
in Him
shall
not
perish
but have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

We lovingly remember Our Beloved Mama on her
Forty Fourth Death Anniversary

EUFEMIA CRUZ VENTANILLA

Of Cabanatuan City and Calumpit, Bulacan
Who died on September 2, 1959

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Basil Church** *Brecksville, Ohio*	9:00 A.M.
2.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral** *Cabanatuan City*	All Masses
3.	**Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel** *Cabanatuan City*	6:00 A.M.
4.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, Metro Manila*	All Masses
5.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila*	All Masses
6.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Rosario Complex, San Pedro, Laguna*	All Masses
7.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish** *Biñan, Laguna*	All Masses
8.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
9.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** *Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
10.	**St. James the Great** *Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	All Masses
11.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village*	All Masses
12.	**Mary Help of Christians Parish** *Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque*	All Masses
13.	**Immaculate Conception Parish** *Concepcion, Marikina City*	6:00 A.M.

Her surviving children: **Gloria, Oscar Jr., Rosalinda**; sons and daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

JOSEFINA SAMSON MORALEDA

Peacefully returned to her Creator and joined her parents, **Faustino** (†) and **Catalina** (†) and her sister **Ma. Sutileza** (†) on 29 August 2003 at the age of 79.

Ining is survived by her sisters; **Sr. Ma. Lourdes**, O.P., **Sr. Ma. Salud**, fmm, and **Rosario**; her brother **Azarias** and wife **Corazon**; her cousins, nieces, nephews and grandnephews.

She lies at the family residence in Camalig, Albay and will be interred at the Cemetery of the Camalig Parish Church after the mass at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 2, 2003.

Your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul will be deeply appreciated by her bereaved family.

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FELINA JACINTO JACINTO

Peacefully joined her Creator on
August 30, 2003 at the age of 76

Loving widow of MARIO T. JACINTO
Devoted mother to
Elizabeth and Bernard Velenzuela; Lenito and Emy Tinio; Mario Luis and Malou Libot; Andres and Ahdore Bumanlag
Beloved grandmother of
Aeschy, Maribel, Kyle and Miles; Andrei & Odhay; Bernadette & Cheska; Larissa and Manuel; Jennina, Louella, Michael and Jonas; Jelleinne and Jullia
Dedicated Teacher to many
Retired Principal of Gapan South District, Nueva Ecija
Her remains will lie in state at Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel (Milan Room), Camus St., Davao City from August 30 - September 1, and at Ciudad Real Chapel, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan from September 2-5, 2003.
Interment will be on Saturday, September 6, 2003 at the San Jose Memorial Park.
Please omit flowers.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

DEMETRIA SANTOS
Vda. DE NORBERTE

of
Caloocan City and Vancouver, Canada
August 14, 1926 – August 30, 2003

Peacefully joined our Lord and her loving husband, Vivencio at the age of 77.

The bereaved children; **Nenelie and Al Gomez; Neliza and Butch Lizardo; Neriza and Ronald Hulog; Noel and Rhoda Norberte**; grandchildren **Miguel, Michaela and Gabriel; Cyrill and Katrina; Patricia, Paolo, Lean and Louise; Janelle**; sister **Salud Bernardo**, brothers **Rey** (†) and **Boy** (†); **JR.**, nieces, nephews, all relatives and friends mourn her passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Ambassador Funeral Homes, A. Mabini cor. C-3, Caloocan City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 2, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Caloocan City after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

FIEDS

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September 10, 2003

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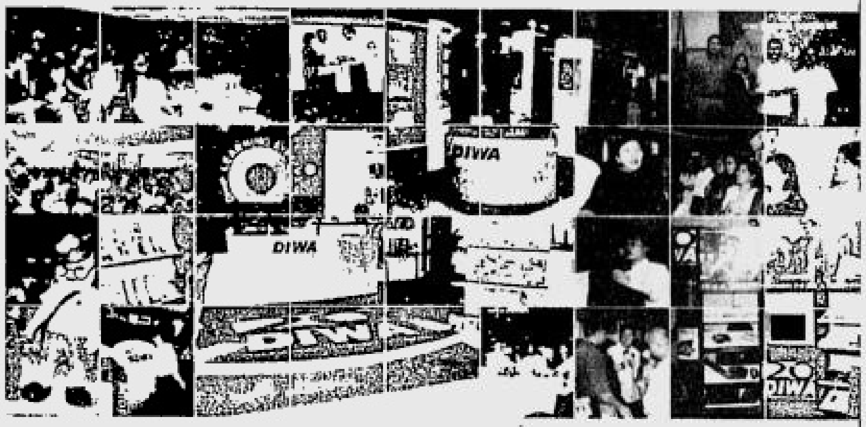

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Schedule of Activities

Pasiklaban sa Paaralan Teachers' Edition
(by invitation only)
12:00-5:00 pm, 30 August 2003

"The Filipino Educator on Becoming a Servant Leader" Seminar for Administrators and Principals (by invitation only)
1:30-5:30 pm, 1 September 2003

"Integrating ICT into the New Curriculum"
Seminar for Teachers
(by invitation only)
12:30-4:30 pm, 4 September 2003

Pasiklaban sa Paaralan Grand Finals
(by invitation only)
12:30-5:00 pm, 5 September 2003

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After 20 years in the publishing industry, Diwa Learning Systems Inc takes the leap to integrate education technology into the age of information and communications technology (ICT). Diwa's e-Learning initiatives help propel students not only to be literate and proficient in the core subjects, but also to be highly efficient in the use of computer for their studies and other purposes. Students thus learn their lessons at the same time excel in the use of computers.

True e-learning. Beyond computer-aided instruction (CAI) and computer-based training (CBT), Diwa takes full advantage of the powers of ICT and the internet to enhance classroom instruction and not merely use the computer as an electronic library or course manual.

Diwa's *Genyo* is the first, locally developed interactive multimedia application, which meets both our students' and teachers' requirements. It is a multimedia and interactive computer software designed for use in classroom instruction for grade school and high school. It features extensive information and content in the areas of Science, Math and English.

Its customization feature empowers the teacher to tailor-fit the multimedia component to his lesson plan. Its logical and structured design ensures a continuous and progressive learning experience. And Genyo has enough bells and whistles to keep the student's attention span focused on the various activities and exercises. It is exciting to imagine what kind of students will emerge from this kind of learning.

Genyo is a fully integrated and structured body of information designed to progressively add to the student's knowledge as he makes his way through the year levels of schooling. It is also highly visual in content, making extensive use of video and audio clips, colorful graphics, charts and animations, interactive simulations and challenging exercises and quizzes. For the teachers, Genyo has the teacher-authoring tool called Coursebuilder, which enables him to customize Genyo materials to suit his lesson plan and his teaching style.

Expanding the boundaries of the printed page through ICT. For selected publications, Diwa provides subscribers with an ICT component: for students, additional online pages, providing additional topics and information, access to the SEM's archives, links to complementary Web sites, contributors' page and feedback page; for teachers, additional online pages that provide a thorough discussion of the values highlighted in every SEM, a forum among fellow teachers and additional teaching strategies.

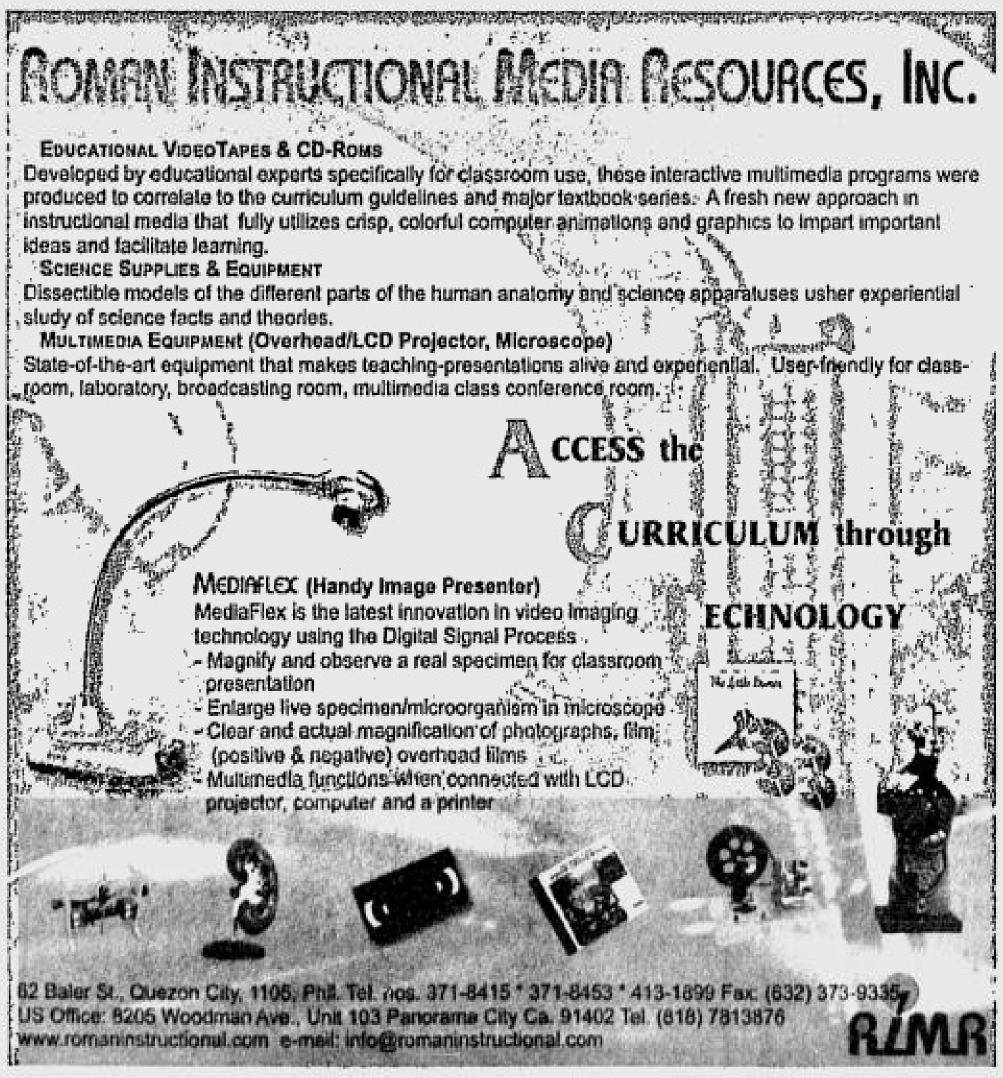
Companion CDs: not just e-Books but a true e-Learning tool. The *Companion CDs* of selected Diwa Textbooks are the company's response to the Department of Education's directive to integrate Information and Communication Technology in classroom instruction cited on the Basic Education Curriculum. While the CDs provide the electronic version of the textbook, they are not purely the e-Book versions of the textbooks. The Companion CDs expand both students' and teachers' to learn and enjoy the lessons.

The companion CDs provide links to relevant web sites and portions of *Genyo*, as a complement to the the textbooks' sidebars or appendix found in the printed textbooks. The CDs also contain supplemental facts and figures that students can use for schoolwork, lesson plans, and references related to the topics discussed at the end of each chapters.

The Companion CDs being an electronic extension of the textbook gives essential textbook related information for students and teachers alike. The e-Learning Program imparts to teach the users—teachers, students and educators in general to maximize the use of technology in classroom setting.

Through Diwa's initial e-Learning initiatives, students learn their ABC's as they learn their ICT.

From ABC to ICT is the leap that schools must take to advance in their education technology in this generation.



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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Forum
"Holistic Approach on Healthy Lifestyle"
Medical & Health Librarians Assn. of the Philippines

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Forum
"Nurturing the Entrepreneurial Spirit in Librarians for their Financial Independence"
Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M./Function Rms. A & B
Seminar
"Filipino Teachers on Becoming a Servant Leader"
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar & Workshop/Book Launching
"Shaping the Global Person Through Interactive Learning"
C & E Publishing, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. B
Seminar
"Computer-Aided Instruction in the Classroom (by Using GLENCOE Technology"
McGraw-Hill Education & IBC Infotech

12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"SRA Literacy Across BEC (Integrating Math, Science &

Reading Through Multimedia)"
McGraw-Hill Education & Abiva Publishing House

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
St Pauls,

5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. A
Seminar/Workshop
"How To Do Everything With Your Digital Camera"
McGraw-Hill Education

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M./Function Rm. B
St. Michael's Mass by Ryan Cayabyab
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Smart becomes 1st in world to use new cell site technology

By Leo Magno

NEW DELHI, India—Smart Communications Inc. has begun deploying a revolutionary new cellular telephone base station technology that brings down the cost of setting up cell sites by up to 40 percent.

Smart is building up its coverage in the rural areas and is adding more cell sites to its current total of more than 3,400 across the Philippines. However, the new additional cell sites use cellular network technology from Nokia called Connect GSM, making Smart the first in the world to use the solution.

Traditional cell sites consist of a tower and a shelter which houses the base station. The shelter has to be air-conditioned and needs electricity, a generator, a perimeter fence and a security guard to protect the station, especially since incidents of theft are not uncommon in cell sites located in rural areas. The Nokia Connect GSM solution consists of a smaller, preconfigured base station which can be attached to the tower itself close to the antenna mast, negating the need for a costly shelter.

"We have been deploying the new solution for the past six months now. Fifty are already operational and we're looking at installing 200 ConnectSite 10 base stations within the year, and likely more next year," said Don Rae, chief operations adviser of Smart at the launch of the Nokia network solution in New Delhi.

Rae said that lowering network-related capital and operational expenditure is key to expanding Smart's coverage to rural areas in the Philippines. Avoiding the construction of costly on-ground installations, he said, is one solution.

The new preconfigured base stations are also easier to install.

"Traditional sites take a minimum of 45 days to set up," according to Rolando Peña, head of Smart's network services division. "In comparison, a ConnectSite can be set up in one to two weeks."

Savings on network-related capital and operational expenditure, along with the introduction of inexpensive, entry-level cellular phones, is a way of strengthening the business models of cellular telephone operators in regions with low average revenue per user or the amount of money a subscriber is willing to spend for cellular phone use. Nokia is targeting new growth areas in countries like India, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Russia and the Philippines with its ConnectSite solution to accelerate the setup of cellular networks in areas where subscribers have low purchasing power.

For Smart, cheaper cell site installations are a step toward its goal of increasing its subscriber base from the current 10 million to 20 million. With a population of 80 million and a total subscriber base of 19 million, about 25 percent of the Philippine market is already using cell phones.

"Conventional wisdom has been that the Philippine market saturates at 25 percent," said Rae. "Smart has adopted a strategy for much higher penetration and asked itself if 50 percent is possible, so we're aspiring for a 20-million subscriber base."

Asked if the 40-percent savings which Smart would get from each new Nokia cell site would ultimately translate to lower airtime cost for its subscribers, Rae said: "Not in the short-term. We need to keep those savings to maintain the network."

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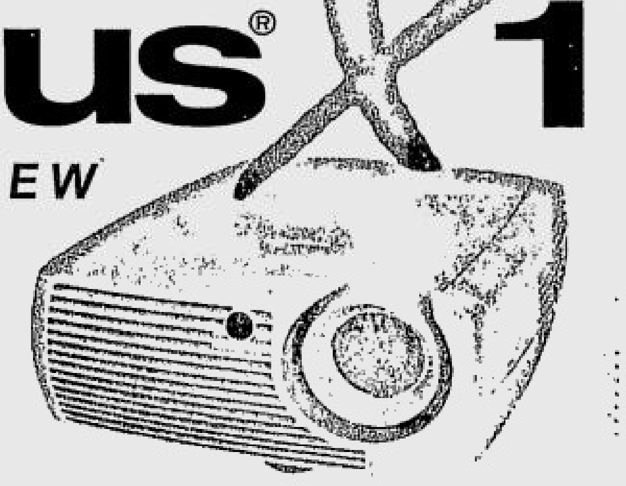

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Macapagal endorses . . .

From page B16

Senators Oreta, Manuel Villar Jr., Edgardo Angara, Robert Jaworski, Loren Legarda, Panfilo Lacson, Ramon Revilla, Francisco Pangilinan, Robert Barbers, Noli de Castro and Vicente Sotto III.

Similar to laws passed in other countries, the optical media bill seeks to come up with means to regulate the manufacture, mastering and replication of optical media in the Philippines. Optical media is any device that stores information digitally—including music, movies and computer software.

Proponents of the measure indicate that the measure aims to address the issue of piracy at its very root by regulating the medium used to distribute it illegally. This means that devices or optical media such as CD-ROMs, DVDs, CD-R, CD-RW and others will be included.

The bill will also institutionalize an internationally accepted system identification code, which will trace the source of the content all optical media mastered, manufactured or replicated by any establishment or organization in the Philippines. This code will be embedded into the optical media itself.

The bill will also reorganize the Videogram Regulatory Board into an Optical Media Board which will be under the Office of the President.

The measure will eventually impose stiffer penalties on establishments caught violating the provisions of the measure. Violators face imprisonment of at least three years up to six years, and a fine of P500,000 up to P1.5 million, at the discretion of the courts.

The optical media bill has passed the House of Representatives and is currently being scrutinized by the Senate.

Nokia launches . . .

From page B16

and the affordability of the handset is a key consideration in these areas."

However, at the global launch of the Nokia 1100 and 2300 at the Finnish Embassy in New Delhi, Nokia officials declined to state exactly how affordable the new phones were. Representatives from Smart Communications and Globe Telecom—two of the Philippines' cell phone operators—meanwhile said that entry-level phones should not exceed P5,000 if they are to be accepted by first-time, "low-end" buyers.

Nokia stressed, however, that lowering the cost of installing and maintaining the network goes hand in hand with increasing subscribers worldwide.

"Increasing penetration rate entails more than offering cheap handsets," said Simon Beresford-Wylie, Nokia senior vice president for Asia Pacific. "If we do nothing today and proceed with what we have been doing for the past few years, global subscriber base would still increase to 1.7 billion. However, with end-to-end solutions from both the handset and the infrastructure fronts, we could reach that goal of increasing global subscribers to 2 billion."

BERESFORD-WYLIE

This, said Beresford-Wylie, led Nokia to roll out its Connect GSM Network Solution which lowers the cost of installing cell sites by up to 50 percent. Beresford-Wylie said this would accelerate telecommunication growth in new emerging markets.

"Add to this a lineup of inexpensive handsets on a cost-efficient network and you have an affordable mobile service for the entry-level market," Beresford-Wylie said.

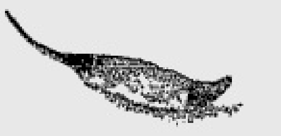
"The design of the new phones are really for a global market, but we're also taking our cue from trends in Asia," added McGee.

The 1100 and the 2300 operate on the 900/1800 GSM bands and are expected to be commercially available before the year ends. They can be personalized using optional Xpress-on color covers.

The cheaper 1100 offers voice and messaging features and has an anti-slip grip and a built-in flashlight, while the 2300 is more colorful and has more functions such as an enhanced monitor for text message and voice usage.

Canon

Small Wonder



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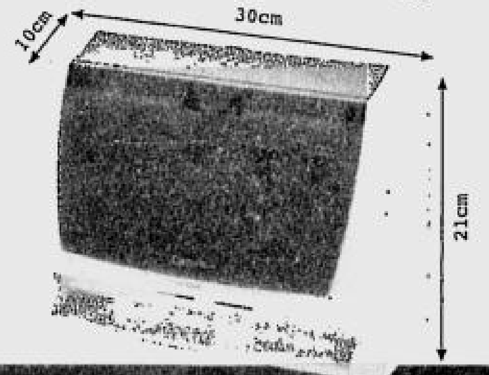

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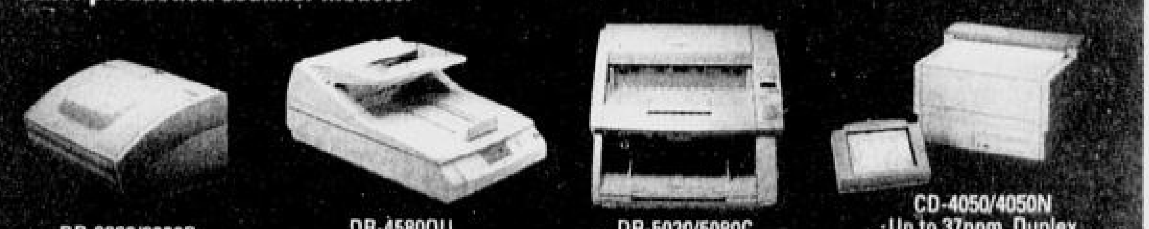

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Editor **Leo Magno**

Macapagal endorses measure regulating optical media in RP

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed a pending measure regulating optical media in the Philippines, giving the proposed law a much-needed boost, according to the office of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

Oreta is the primary author of the "Optical Media Act of 2003" at the Senate. The senator is head of the Senate committee on public information and mass media.

"We think the President was asked during her visit to US President Bush about the piracy problem in the Philippines," said Bryan Yamsuan, chief of staff of Oreta. This prompted the President to certify the pending measure as a priority bill, Yamsuan added.

However, Yamsuan said the Senate is only expected to take up the bill after a scheduled recess on Sept. 4.

"But we expect it to be approved (by the Senate) within the year. It still has to go through one or two more hearings at the committee level," Yamsuan said. Both government and private groups have been lobbying for this bill for almost two years in Congress.

The Business Software Alliance, an anti-piracy watchdog lobbying for provisions protecting software products, was among those expected to appear during the remaining committee hearings, Yamsuan said.

He said other "pressing "issues have sidetracked other pending measures at the Senate, including the optical media bill. Still, the lawmakers are expected to pass the law before the year ends.

At least 17 senators signed a consolidated version of the bill on June. Signatories include

MACAPAGAL/B15

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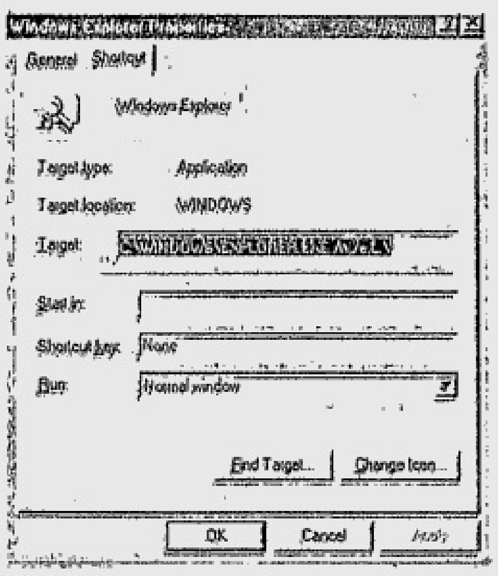
Change default folder of Explorer

By Jerry Liao



POWERTIPS

IN WINDOWS Explorer, is there another folder you'd rather start in? To change the default folder, follow these simple steps:

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(2) Select Open, and double-click Programs to reveal the Windows Explorer shortcut.

(3) Right-click the Windows Explorer shortcut.

(4) Choose Properties, and in the resulting dialogue box, click the Shortcut tab.

(5) In the Target line, add the name of any folder to the end of your root directory, C:\. (example : C:\bshare or C:\bshare\tips)?

(6) Click OK.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. For comments and suggestions, send e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com.

Nokia launches entry-level phones for new growth markets

By Leo Magno

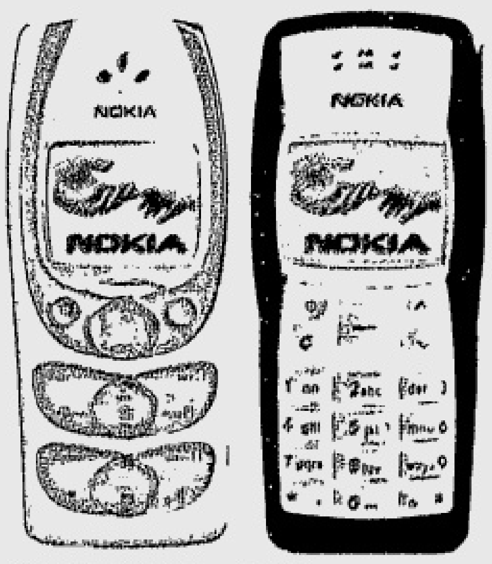
NEW DELHI, India—Nokia of Finland has launched two models of inexpensive mobile phones to address new growth markets where people will be using cellular phones for the first time.

The Nokia 1100 and 2300 are targeted at what the phone maker calls its "fastest-growing markets," which include countries like India, China, Russia, Thailand, Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Current estimates place the number of global cellular subscribers at 1.2 billion. Nokia believes new growth markets would contribute largely to raising this figure to 2 billion by 2008. The company believes that cheaper handsets and lowering the installation and maintenance cost of cellular phone networks are key elements to increasing cell phone penetration worldwide.

"We're continuing to develop a portfolio of handsets that cater to people who need just the basic text and voice capabilities," said Tyler McGee, Nokia vice president for mobile phone sales in southeast Asia. "We see huge growth in markets with first-time subscribers,

NOKIA/B15



NOKIA 2300 (left) and 1100

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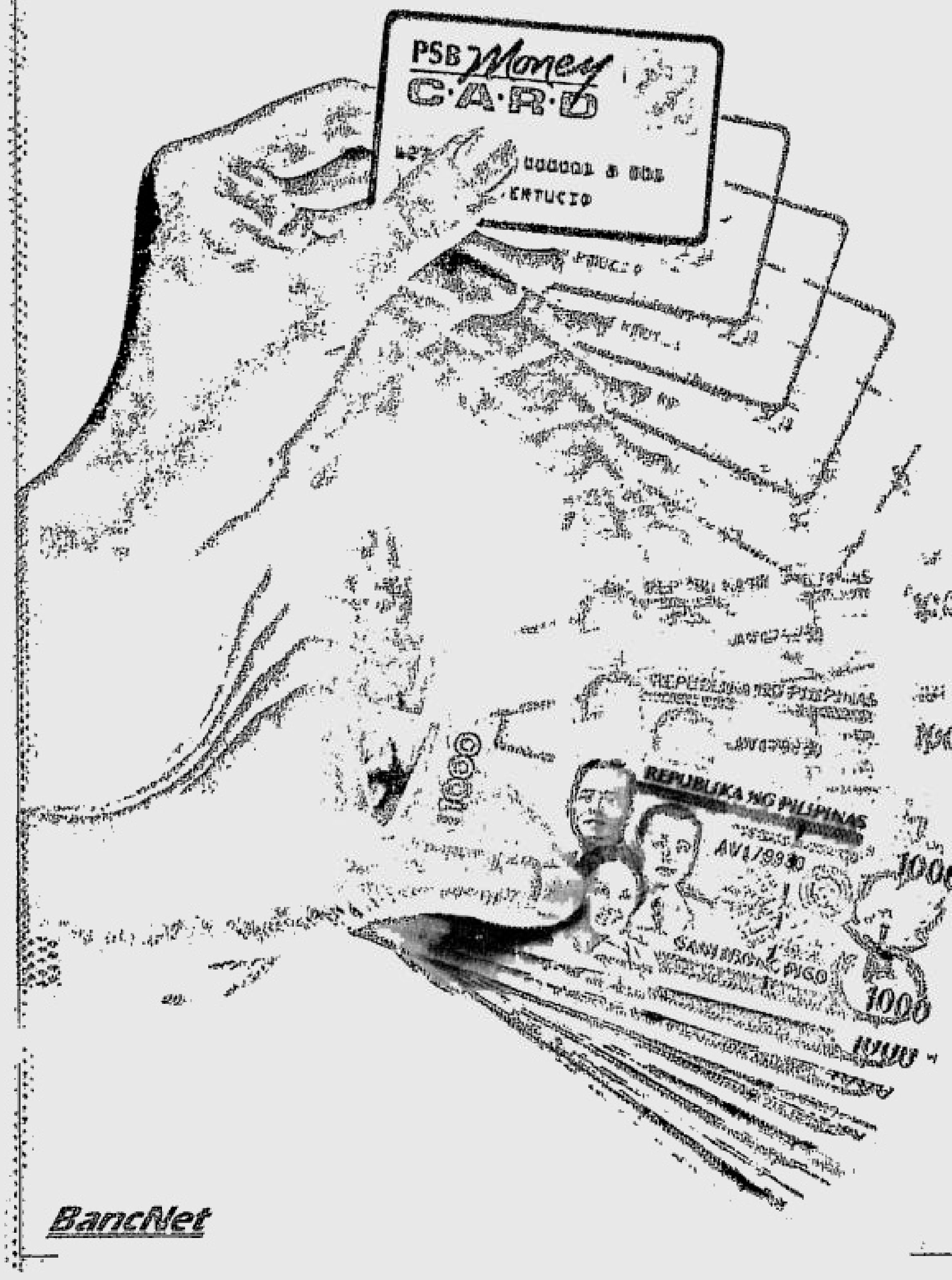

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To drive competition crazy, don't focus on them

By Frances J. Yu
Contributor

"THE ITALIAN Job" is an engaging film about two professional thieves vying for over $30 million worth of gold bars. The movie features Mark Wahlberg and Edward Norton as two very different individuals who happen to be in the profession of stealing. One has the guns, the goons, and the gold. The other has ingenuity, creativity and heart. At the end, it is the David who prevails over the Goliath in a game where the winner takes all.

In business competition, unlike the movies, the odds are often in favor of the Goliaths. However, there are some exceptional companies who have managed to defy conventional wisdom to give market leaders a run for their money or even pull a surprising upset. These companies share one thing in common: they drive their competition crazy by creating "disruption" in their chosen fields. Creating disruption entails creating your own market space, being comfortable with living in a constant state of "managed flux," and being willing to make sacrifices.

Own market space

Creating your own market space means redefining the rules for competing. It means occupying a space that no one has yet occupied. To illustrate, Starbucks entered a market where industry players sold coffee. Starbucks did not enter the specialty coffee industry to sell a product. Instead, they created a new market space by selling an EXPERIENCE. Similarly, Swatch broke with the Swiss tradition of positioning a watch as a serious, luxury product. Without compromising on the Swiss tradition of technological impeccability, Swatch created its own market space by selling fun, fancy and the joy of life.

While it is so much easier to watch and copy the market leader (after all they must have been doing something right), you will end up in a hostile middle ground, competing according to the standards dictated by the market leader who has so much more resources than you. If you are to see drastic opportunities for growth, create real breakthroughs, and compete effectively against the No. 1, you will need to compete according to your own set of marketing rules.

State of managed flux

In business, the quest for stability is a major preoccupation. Stability implies steady progress. It means following more or less the same path. A stable organization typically has rigorous processes and controls, a well-structured bureaucracy, a homogenous work force that fits into established codes of behavior, and tried and tested roadmaps for success.

The paradox of stability is that it often makes companies slow to react and adapt to changing market dynamics. To grow rapidly, you need to move swiftly. You need to be flexible to capitalize on opportunities that come your way. You need to be willing to take calculated risks. You need to be willing to demolish "sacred cows." In other words, you need to be comfortable living in a constant state of managed flux. This does not mean that your organization must be in a state of chaos. There is a huge difference between chaos and flux. Being in a state of chaos denotes a loss of control. Being in a state of managed flux is a deliberate strategy that allows an organization to be flexible and innovative.

One of the best examples of a successful company that comfortably lives in a state of flux is Best Buy in the United States. Best Buy is a leading specialty electronics retailer. It has gone through several evolutions, in which it has drastically changed its business model and format at least four times over a period of 40 years. Despite being a market leader, the firm has crafted a deliberate strategy of fluidity and not being too comfortable with its prevailing strategy even if it has been proven to work.

Sacrifice

It has been said that in a world of media clutter and information saturation, the greatest danger facing a brand is not rejection, but indifference. You cannot be all things to everyone. This means that you cannot be bound by the need for mass consensus. Sacrificing means resisting midstream (read: safe) thinking to make a stronger impact on your core audience. There will be some consumers who may hate you. But there will be others who will be fanatically loyal to your brand.

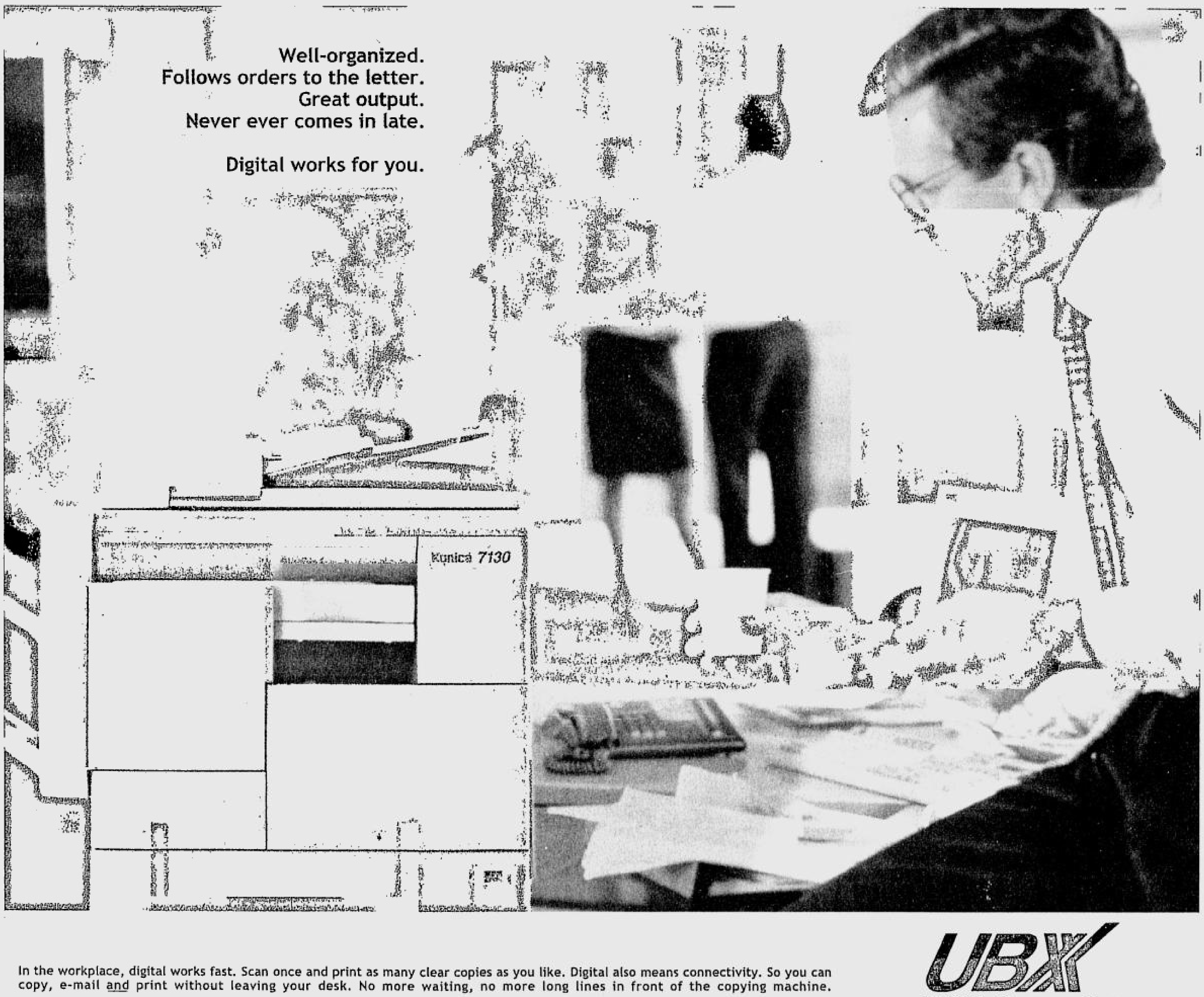
A good example of sacrifice is Southwest Airlines. Southwest Airlines is low cost, no frills (passengers bring their own food), and eccentric airlines that has been making waves in recent times. While Southwest Airlines would probably never appeal to the serious business traveler, it has become the victorious David in an industry dominated by Goliaths.

The US airline industry has been steadily declining since the early '90s. Recently, these declines have become more precipitous. Southwest Airlines has bucked this trend by continuously generating profit. In 1996, it was rated as the nation's top airline ahead of American, United and Delta.

Driving your competition crazy means not focusing on the competition.

In conclusion, driving your competition crazy by creating

TO DRIVE/ B2-2



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E-commerce: A road less traveled by SMEs

By Ian Jester M. de Vera
Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

In the new millennium, there will only be two types of business: those in the Internet and those out of business—Bill Gates

MANY small entrepreneurs who have joined the information technology revolution have not looked back. They have modernized and automated the way they do business by tapping the wonders of the computer. Office automation through word processing and spreadsheets is now common among SMEs. Some of them have begun to maintain automated accounting and payroll systems.

But the wonders of the computer do not end there. Automation is only one aspect of the technology. There remains a road generally untrodden by SMEs and that is the Internet.

Most SMEs have become adept in browsing and electronic mailing. Unfortunately, they have stopped short from establishing a real Internet presence through e-commerce.

E-commerce basically means the conduct of business online, whether business to business (B2B) or business to consumer (B2C). Unfortunately for SMEs there is no way they can avoid e-commerce. According to the American City Business Journals, small businesses that used the Internet grew 46 percent faster than those that had not. In the Philippines, a leading shopping mall would prefer a distributor who is B2B-compliant over one who is not.

If e-commerce is the way for forward-looking businesses to go, then why are SMEs not making a dash for it?

Need to clear roadblocks

SMEs are quite hesitant to take the road less traveled because certain obstacles need to be cleared. For example, there are still a number of SMEs that have yet to acquire a computer.

According to a World Bank study conducted last year, most SMEs were more concerned about surviving than adopting Internet technology. Besides the lack of manpower to design and maintain the system there was also the question of affordability, access and applicability of the Internet.

The research further showed that B2C transactions in the Philippines remain low because of problems related to security as well as the small number of credit card holders and banks that accept online payments. Meanwhile, B2B transactions are still in its "fledgling stage."

So far only large corporations have sufficient IT infrastructure and are usually based in urban centers. The study also noted that IT tools may be too expensive for SMEs.

A toll-free gateway

There is therefore a need for a cheap yet efficient way for SMEs to access the Internet. Thanks to groundbreaking efforts of Edgardo "Tedjie" B. Herbosa, SMEs can now go online at a fraction of the cost it would have normally required to have Internet presence. Enter b2bpricenow.com, the country's first ever B2B marketplace, where cooperatives and SMEs can actually trade and pay online.

With his technical partner Unisys Philippines Inc., Tedjie, an entrepreneur himself, launched the website in January 2001 with the idea of leveling the playing field among large, medium, small and micro players in three sectors: agriculture, consumer manufacturing and industrial manufacturing.

Once registered, a member can gain instant access to the site's features: subscription-free posting and viewing of products for sale, online negotiation, electronic contract and document drafting, and online bank-to-bank payment.

Another B2B marketplace for SMEs is the recently launched dbp4sme.ph, one of the non-financial services of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to SMEs under the technical assistance component of the bank's Industrial and Support Services Expansion Program Phase II (ISSEP II). Tagged as Financing Plus to highlight the non-financial services laid in place for complementing credit, the program is a 35.35-billion yen credit facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. It specifically addresses the growth and expansion needs of the Philippine manufacturing sector as well as selected non-manufacturing enterprises.

As a registered user a member can have instant access to free services like business matching to search for buyers and/or suppliers. A premium for those who sign up between June 1 and Dec. 31, 2003 is a free one-year membership to buyphilippines.ph. As the first and only digital shopping mall exclusively for Philippine-made products and services, the site promises it can help a small business put up its own electronic store in just five minutes.

A one-way street

Registration in either of these two B2B marketplaces is as easy as opening a free e-mail account. All you have to do is to register online for free, and once you have become a member you get instant access to the website's free services.

Acquiring a computer may not even be a problem for SME entrepreneurs who want to engage in e-commerce. Since one can register at b2bpricenow.com using any computer, Tedjie suggests to those who lack the facility to go to government agencies where Internet access is free or to Internet cafés or computer shops that rent out Internet access. DBP, for example, has set up the m+SME Internet Café at the ground floor of the DBP head office in Makati City to provide micro, small and medium enterprises free use of state-of-the-art computer facilities to browse over the Internet and maximize opportunities on the Web.

For B2C transactions, b2bpricenow.com offers for a very nominal fee its two-page template for SMEs that may want to put up their own websites for their consumers. All these entrepreneurs have to do is to submit the text and the pictures they may want to have uploaded in their respective sites, and each will have a unique file path attached to the domain name b2bpricenow.com.

With these added SME-friendly features the site has to offer, there is no more reason for an SME not to engage in e-commerce if it wants to.

Although Tedjie admits that the adoption of the technology is slow in the Philippines he patiently waits for SMEs to catch up. "It's the new economy. It's not a fad. It's like a one-way street if you will look at it. It's either you learn it now or learn it tomorrow, but you cannot afford not to learn it."

(For inquiries on dbp4sme.ph or other projects of the DBP ISSEP II, call the institute at E. Virata Hall, UP Diliman Campus, 9287076 and 9296923 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.)

RP wins awards in New York festival

By Roger Pe
Contributor

A CHARMING campaign with a sprinkling of wisecracks for a mall cafe, an unusual shoe ad that reminded the target to play rather than do house chores on Labor Day, a fabulously art-directed hotel ad, and a print ad that told kids that bright minds read won World Medals for the Philippines in the 2003 New York Print Advertising Festivals held in New York last Aug. 25, 2003.

Given annually for the best print advertising worldwide for almost 50 years now, the awards are branded by the organizers as World Medals and the winning ads showcased in a glossy coffee-table book circulated worldwide.

Campaigns and Grey's print effort for Seattle's Best bagged the Philippines' only Silver World Medal in the annual advertising competition that attracts thousands of entries from all over the world. The silver win by Campaigns was for its three-series print ads named "Kiss," "Foreplay" and "Sleepless." "Foreplay" was also a finalist in the London International Ad Awards last year.

The creative team of the award-winning ad was composed of John Amon and the late Butch Uy; John Amon and Sam Pasamba Mike Calvan and Eric Gutierrez and Cherrybelle de Guzman.

TBWA-Santiago, Mangada and Puno enriches its collection of international awards by snatching two more this year. An ad for Adidas telling people to play instead of washing or ironing clothes on Labor Day, plus a visually stunning hotel ad (imagine a swimming pool cleverly art-directed to look like a filofax) for Shangrila Hotel garnered two Bronze World Medals for the agency.

The creative team for "Labor Day" was composed of Jimmy Santiago and Melvin Mangada and Joni Caparas. Melvin Mangada, Third Domingo and Evans Sator belonged to the team which created "Filo."

The other Bronze World Medal for the country was won by DDB Philippines for McDonald's print and poster "Bright Minds Read" campaign—a Department of Education sponsored reading program for Greater Manila's grade schools.

The ad showed books for kids arranged like french fries and was part of a tri-media campaign that also appealed to McDonald's customers to donate their used books. The creative team included Roger Pe, Lambert de Guzman and G.I. Sabugio.

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- Make ID Cards
- Make Brochures
- Make Stickers

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Don't buy 3 solos when you can get them all in one economical but powerful package. The world-renowned CorelDraw Graphics Suite 11, 3-in-1 tool, for just P31,299.

Wacom Graphire 2 drawing tablet with wireless, battery-less, pressure-sensitive pen makes your drawing easier and lets you render better-looking graphics than using a mouse. Available in 4"x5" and 5"x7" sizes for P4,500 & P7,495 respectively.

Microtek ScanMaker 6800, with its Digital ICE technology, you can now repair and restore damaged photos in a flash. The ScanMaker 6800 "is an excellent photo scanner," said PC Magazine in its December 2002 issue. With its superb features, plus true 2400 x 4800 dpi resolution and built-in 4"x5" transparency adapter, get it for only P24,995.

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Aiming for management excellence through awards

MAPPING THE FUTURE

By Edward L. Fereira

AWARDS are MAP's way of acknowledging outstanding performance in the Philippine Management scene. MAP's intention is to recognize those who innovate and lead the way to promote best management practices. We want to learn from one another by sharing and understanding the achievements of others. This is in line with the MAP's objective of promoting management excellence and ensuring a broad exchange of relevant management information and practices.

For almost four decades, the MAP has conducted an annual search for Management Man of the Year to recognize any MAP member or any other person who has exceptionally distinguished himself/herself in the practice of management. The 2003 awardee will only be the 25th recipient of this very prestigious award of the MAP that is given only after careful and thorough deliberation. In fact, there had been years when no awardee was named.

This month, the MAP will launch the first Philippine Management Awards to honor companies in the country that carry out best management practices. It is designed to become the accepted management awards program in the country. The awards will be given to companies that have implemented or enhanced outstanding and innovative products, services, projects and programs during the preceding year. The awards' six categories are customer service project, marketing, PR or brand management project, IT or E-commerce project or service, human resource development project, corporate social responsibility project, and operations management.

Last June, the MAP introduced the first "Best Annual Reports" awards. The objective of the awards is to encourage the publication of accurate, informative, well-presented and timely annual reports for the benefit of shareholders, employees, and others who may have an interest in the business performance and activities of a company/organization.

The MAP "Best Annual Reports " awards will showcase the strength of companies/organizations in reporting a comprehensive and detailed information about their activities in a user-friendly manner with the effective use of charts, photos and other visuals.

The awards will also stress the importance of timeliness in reporting. It will encourage companies/organizations to produce their reports in a more timely manner so as to preserve the relevance of the information contained in their annual reports. It will inspire companies/organizations to incorporate the problems, challenges or opportunities they may face, and how they would seek to develop their organizations to fulfill their missions.

The "Best Annual Reports" Awards will help raise the quality level of Philippine annual reports to world-class standards. The annual reports in the country will become informative, and will provide relevant and current information on a company's business, financial position and prospects, in an aesthetically pleasing way.

The MAP awards programs recognize and promote best management practices. They teach, promote, encourage, persuade and motivate companies to aspire for excellence.

The Management Man of the Year is for an outstanding individual. The "Best Annual Reports" awards will be for the company, and the Philippine Management Awards will be for outstanding projects and programs implemented in the field of management. Each award looks at management from a different perspective, yet each complements the other.

One way to look at the MAP awards programs is to ask yourself if you have outstanding and well-trained capable managers? In short, do you have your own Management Man of the Year in your company?

Do you have continuous improvement in the various areas of management? What have you done recently to improve your marketing, your operational efficiency or your customer service?

Finally, how do you tie in the mission, vision and plans for your company with your actual operating results? How well do you communicate to your respective publics? In short, how are you doing with your annual reports? Do you give it the attention it deserves?

The MAP Awards for Management Excellence stand out along these lines.

(The author is president of MAP and president and CEO of Ferycor Intrenational Management Group Inc.. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

To drive competition. . .

From page B2-1

your own market space, being comfortable with living in a constant state of "managed flux," and being willing to make sacrifices have nothing to do with the competition. Driving your competition crazy means not focusing on your competitors at all. All too often, we fall into the trap of being competitor-centric rather than being customer-centric. We monitor competitor moves, launch a similar product or service that our competitor has, or copy an innovation that a competitor introduced. In benchmarking our performance versus competition, we have allowed competition (not the customer) to define our performance standards.

Why not benchmark against customer expectations? What is your customer going through? What are her problems and concerns during hard times? How can you best respond to these concerns? Let the customer be your compass at all times. Then you will drive your competition crazy.

(The author is the AVP for marketing of Shopwise.)

MALACANANG PALACE
Manila

MESSAGE

Clark Field's 100 years of existence provide a glimpse of significant events in Philippine history. A little more than ten years ago, Clark Field was a U.S. armed forces installation, and was a symbol of U.S. military presence in Asia. The conclusion of the Military Bases Agreement in 1991 and the subsequent withdrawal of all American forces paved the way for the designation of Clark Field as a special economic zone.

Given this historical perspective, we can easily appreciate the transformation of Clark into a showcase of Philippine economy. Under the stewardship of the **Clark Development Corporation (CDC)**, Clark developed from an abandoned air base into the regional investment hub that it is now. Clark's story provides us with inspiration and invaluable lessons on how we can replicate its success in other parts of the country.

I congratulate the CDC for leading the celebration of the *first 100 years of Clark Field*. I trust that you will continue to perform with excellence your mandate of developing Clark as a premier center of commerce and industry in the region. With your continued support, together we will build a stronger and more vibrant Philippine economy, towards a stronger and more progressive Republic.

I wish you a most successful and meaningful celebration. *Mabuhay!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Embassy of the United States of America
Manila, Philippines

MESSAGE

I look forward with great pleasure to joining President Macapagal-Arroyo, the members of the Clark Development Corporation, and leading stockholders in the future of Clark Special Economic Zone on September 1 to celebrate Clark's first centenary.

Clark's first 100 years witnessed the very birth of the Philippine-American relationship, the development of Philippine democracy and independence, and the strengthening of our alliance through the wars and peace of the turbulent twentieth century. Now, at the outset of its second century, the Clark Special Economic Zone is playing a direct and vital role in what President Arroyo and Bush have described as the "maturation" of our relationship into a true, full partnership of equals.

That maturing partnership relies as much as ever on our enduring alliance under the Mutual Defense Treaty, and our allied defense and law enforcement cooperation against the new scourge of global terrorism. But, as Clark's renaissance as a Special Economic Zone demonstrates, the particular focus of the American-Philippines partnership in this century is in the economic development against threat of poverty that is so intimately interwoven with global terrorism.

I have every faith that Clark will succeed, and the Republic of the Philippines will succeed in opening the Philippines' economy and releasing the world-class talents and energies that Filipinos have amply demonstrated across the globe, most especially in my own country. In the face of those who shrink from our era's challenges and opportunities, Clark can stand as the Republic's leading "Open for Business" sign. Together, the Clark Development Corporation and the leading American companies who have shown their faith in your country by investing at Clark, have shown that the Philippines can compete strongly and successfully in the fast-paced global economy.

Let me take the occasion of Clark's centennial to extend warmest congratulations and every good wish for Clark's future as an ever-prouder monument to Filipino-American industry, cooperation, and partnership.

Mabuhay!

Sincerely,

Francis J. Ricciardone
Ambassador

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone
MESSAGE

As we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Clark Field, we come to realize its transformation from a military bastion into a major business and leisure destination in the Asia-Pacific Region. A witness to war's infamy, nature's wrath and political upheavals, Clark Field is a panorama of dramatic changes, depicting colorful historical facets and economic rebounds that continue to fuel national development.

The future is bright as we work towards the realization of the Aerotropolis concept of development, which envisions Clark to emerge as an airport-driven special economic zone, through massive infrastructure build-up, cooperation among localities and robust economic growth.

As our forebears have sought, we hope to achieve this vision to spawn progress and prosperity not only for Central Luzon, but for the entire country, as well. We hope to bring Clark to greater heights and serve as an engine of growth for the country.

This commemorative publication recollects the century-old story of Clark marked by rich military heritage, cultural fusion and industrialization. A literary must in its own right, it aims to preserve the public's enthrallment about Clark's interesting past, and keep the spirit to move forward alive and invincible.

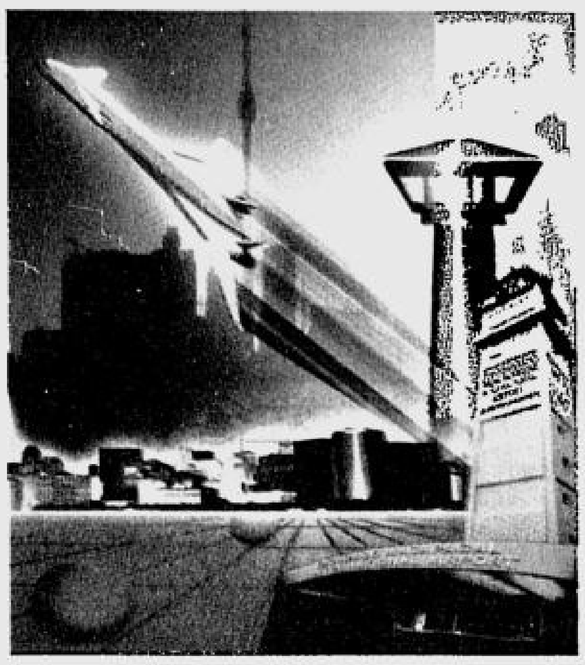
Mabuhay ang Clark!

EMMANUEL Y. ANGELES
President and CEO

---

100 years of success

THE FUTURE IS CLARK



THE CLARK AEROTROPOLIS of Tomorrow

If great ancient civilizations started along equally great rivers, the urban metropolis of this fast-paced century should take flight from airports.

That is what the future holds for the Clark Special Economic Zone as envisioned by Dr. Emmanuel Y. Angeles - a globally competitive and efficient center for aviation, business and leisure AN AEROTROPOLIS.

With speed mobility and flexibility as the name of the game, global corporations are now milling around emerging logistical centers for time-based business. Access to airport has not only become essential considerations, but the environs offering other attractions for a better lifestyle have become prime reasons for a business location.

Aviation will drive development in the 21st century the way seaports did in the 19th and cars did in the 20th century. The modern metropolis shall be an airport city where lifestyle revolves around the activities of air transport.

The Clark Special Economic Zone responds to the demands of this new global trend with the transformation of a vast and unique land resource into an aviation-driven powerhouse. The Zone is the centerpiece structure that can anchor the establishment of Clark Aerotropolis, a gateway to the future and an urban complex that will usher in a new economic landscape that is both competitive and profitable.

AN INVESTMENT HAVEN

The Clark Special Economic Zone covers over 33,000 hectares of prime land in Central Luzon. It is being groomed as the new productivity center as it is only 80 kilometers north of Manila, the center of politics, and 60 kilometers east of Subic Bay, a former US naval facility that has been redeveloped into a major freeport.

Just as the Philippines is known as the gateway to Asia, Clark's strategic location being only a few hours from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Korea and other key business centers in Asia makes it's a natural entry point in the Asia Pacific region.

In a business development report, Clark Development Corporation President Emmanuel Y. Angeles announced that, the state-owned firm obtained a combined investment commitment of P983.34 million from 30 contracts that were signed from January to June 2003.

CDC marketing manager Ethel de Guzman confirmed that a total of 352 investment projects have been approved since CDC's inception in 1993, with committed investments of P77.22 billion, generating 27,521 job opportunities.

THE DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) will be the premier gateway of the Philippines in the next decade. It is one of the biggest aviation complexes in Asia with its two 3.2 kilometer parallel runways that will be extended to 4 kilometers to accommodate new generation wide-bodied aircrafts.

It also has wide apron and ramps, and an interim passenger terminal that are expandable to global standards.

DMIA is designed as a logistics hub where the airport complex will be key to prompt delivery of goods and services to major destinations in the Asia-Pacific region and the whole world.

> ***In this world of continuous changes, there are some events that prove to be great turning points in history. The construction of the Clark Aerotropolis is one such great event.***

Already, world delivery giant United Parcel Service has chosen DMIA as its main Asian hub. Passenger aircraft has started to fly in and out of Clark, starting with domestic flights by Cebu Pacific, the Philippines second largest flag carrier; Asian Spirit and Sea Air.

DMIA is certified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) with ratings of Category I for Precision Approach Runway and Category IX for Emergency Services. It is well-equipped with Instrument Landing System, Doppler VHF Omni Directional Range, Distance Measuring Equipment, Complete Airfield Lighting, among other navigational aids.

CDC MCAC INITIATIVES

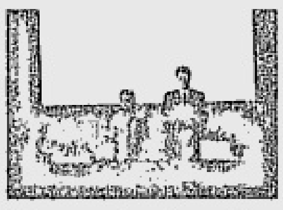
Development cannot be confined within the Clark Special Economic Zone. The environs of Clark composed of Angeles City, the towns of Porac, Mabalacat, Mexico, Magalang, Bacolor, Arayat and San Simon in Pampanga; and the Tarlac municipalities of Bamban, Capas and Concepcion have formed an advisory body that looks into the preparation of these communities for the aerotropolis now taking shape within their midst.

The CDC headed by President and CEO Emmanuel Y. Angeles and the Metro Clark Advisory Council (MCAC), chaired by Mabalacat Mayor Marino "Boking" Morales, have accomplished several projects since the conversion of the former US-ran Clark Air Base into a hub of economic opportunities.

Recently, the Clark Investors and Locators Association (CILA) also joined MCAC because of its key role in the affairs of Clark as an investment site.

Infrastructure and environmental concerns have been their primary attention. The MCAC is now credited for off-site projects such as the Bayanihan Park Drainage in Angeles City, Bangkal Creek Drainage and Appurtenant Structures in Bamban, Sacobia Bailey Bridge in Bamban, the construction of the Concrete-lined Drainage Channel in Capas, the Sapang Balen Creek Revetment Structures in Mabalacat; the Bernardo Avenue and Lakandula Drainage in Mabalacat, the Construction of the Concrete-lined Canal in Cangatba, Poblacion in Porac.

MCAC is also coordinating efforts for the preliminary planning of Metro Clark LGU interconnection through the Metro Clark Arterial road project. The Council, assisted by the Department of Interior and Local Government, initiated efforts to bring barangay officials closer to the CDC by conducting a series of Barangay Orientation Seminars.



So many changes have happened in the past hundred years. Through careful planning and cooperation, the next century will undoubtedly be marked by milestones of fulfilled dreams for those who will live and work within the Clark Aerotropolis.

CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HISTORY OF CLARK FIELD

1897	Clark was used by Pampango Katipuneros to stage attack against Spanish troops.
1898	Spain cedes the Philippines to the U. S. in the Treaty of Paris for $ 20 million.
1899	On February 6 the U. S. Senate voted to annex the Philippines. Clark became part of the escape route of the Filipino forces pursued by the US army.
1902	Fort Stotsenburg was established by the U.S. 5th Calvary Regiment. It was named in honor of Col. John M. Stotsenburg who died on April 23, 1899 in a battle in Bulacan.
1903	President Roosevelt signs an executive order on **September 1** declaring Fort Stotsenburg, Camp Wallace and Camp John Hay as U. S. Military Reservations.
1906	The first flagpost at Fort Stotsenburg is commissioned on **September 16**.
1908	An executive order expands Fort Stotsenburg from 7,700 to 156,204 acres, covering much of modern-day Clark and the mountainous region to the north.
1919	Fort Stotsenburg was renamed Clark Air Field in honor of Maj. Harold M.Clark of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, who was raised in Manila and died in a seaplane crash in Panama.
1941	The Japanese attacked Clark Air Base on **December 8**, destroying dozens of aircraft.
1942	On **April 9**, American forces fell on Bataan and Corregidor, leading a few Days later to the brutal Bataan Death March from Bataan to San Fernando (about 20 miles southeast of Clark). Japanese forces maintained possession of Clark Field.
1944	American forces begin air raids on Japanese occupation at Clark in October, continuing for four months and damaging over 1500 Japanese planes.
1945	On **January 31**, American forces regained possession of Clark Field after three years of Japanese control.
1946	The 13th Air Force is transferred to Clark in **January**, except for a brief period between **May 1946** and **August 1947** when it was at Fort William McKinley on Luzon.
1947	The U.S. and Philippines sign the Military Bases Agreement on **March 14**, which guaranteed American possession of U.S. bases in the Philippines for 99 years.
1948	On **April 15**, the Philippine President Manuel A. Roxas, died of a heart attack after speaking at the old Kelly Theater.
1949	In May, the facilities at Fort Stotsenburg and Clark Field were transferred to the U.S. Air Force, and from then on the entire base became known as Clark Air Base
1951	On **August 30**, the U.S.-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty is signed, which still remains in effect today.
1956	U.S. Vice-President Nixon visits the Philippines, and formally acknowledges Philippine sovereignty over American bases in the country. However, the U.S. continued to retain control for 23 more years.
1964	Clark joined the Vietnam War in **March**.
1966	The Rusk-Ramos agreement is signed on **September 16**, a revision of the 1947 Military Bases Agreement, which was set to expire in 25 years.
1971	Filipino employees went on strike March 3 for the first time. The walkout lasted three days, and another strike followed on *July 25*, this time lasting 15 days.
1973	The first group of Vietnam Prisoners of War (POWs) arrived on **February 12**, with a second group following on **February 18**.
1979	A revised 1947 Military Bases Agreement was ratified on **January 7** and executed at Clark Air Base to transfer command and security of Clark and other American bases to the Philippine government. On **March 25**, Clark's third major labor-strike occurred.
1983	The Military Bases Agreement was revised further in 1983. Starting **October 3**, unionized Filipino employees went on strike for four days over pay issues.
1991	The first "big" eruption of Mt. Pinatubo took place on **June 12**. The Philippine Senate rejected an extension of the Military Bases Agreement, scheduled to expire on September 16. The U.S. Air Force formally transferred Clark in its entirety to the Philippines on **November 26**, ending its century-long presence in the region
1993	**On April 3** President Fidel Ramos approved the Clark Special Economic Zone and established the Clark Development Corporation
1995	The Clark International Airport Corporation was established to manage the airfield facilities.
1997	The last U.S. forces leave the Philippines on **November 24**.
2001	Clark International Airport is renamed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in honor of the first Kapampangan to assume office as Philippine President, on September 28.
2003	Clark turns 100 years with a rich history marked by cultural fusion, industrialization and rich military heritage on September 01.

The Moving Force: DR. EMMANUEL YAP ANGELES

CDC President & Chief Executive Officer

When Dr. Emmanuel Yap Angeles was appointed administrator of the Clark Development Corporation by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, there were those who raised doubts on his ability to run a business and economic zone like Clark. After all, Dr. Angeles' track record, while sterling and impressive was in academics and school administration. Prior to his appointment, he has been managing the family owned Angeles Technical Institute and transformed it into what is now the Angeles University Foundation, one of the premier centers of learning in Region III.

A firm believer in teamwork, Dr. Angeles applies the principle of leadership by example. He is in his office by 8:00 o'clock, and usually works into the night. "I always strive for excellence in everything I do," he explains, "and I expect my co-workers to do the same."

Dr. Angeles' working style is paternal, instinctive, pro-active and visionary. Even without a business or economics degree that his detractors say is needed to guarantee success, Dr. Angeles has been able to turn Clark Development Corporation (CDC) into a profitable, well-run venture.

Under his administration, CDC generated 299 investment projects with a combined cumulative investment of P174.56B, thereby creating 67,123 jobs.

Dr. Angeles has also established Clark Polytechnic, which is envisioned to provide both skilled and professional manpower to the growing needs of Clark and nearby Subic, as well as other growing economic zones in Central Luzon.

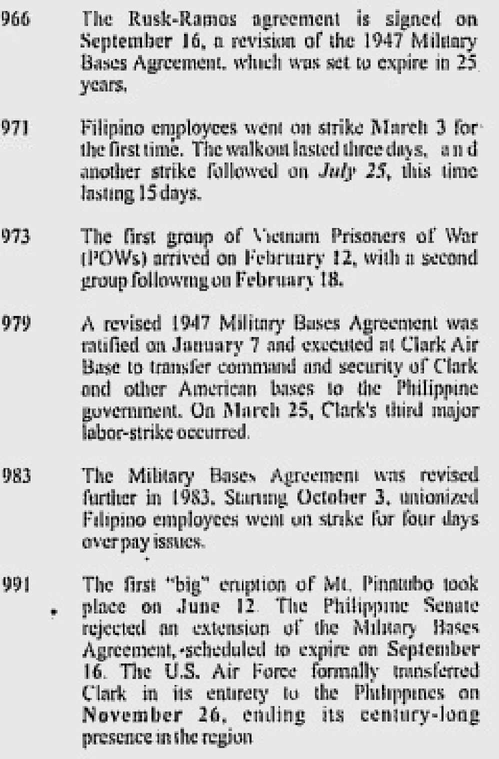
Clark Polytechnic seeks to provide direct, immediate and lasting impact on the improvement of the quality of life for out-of-school youth, the unemployed, and the underemployed in partnership with local and foreign business and industries in the area.

Added to these accomplishments is the merger of the CDC and Clark International Airport corporation which should save the government some P60 million annually.

Nine new investment projects have been approved and are expected to infuse some P99.6 million in committed investments and generate 1,270 job opportunities within five years.

From January to May of this year, CDC-registered firms, led by Sampo Technology Philippines, Inc. ($34,017,650); Yokohama tire Philippines, Inc. ($9,258,274); and Nanox Philippines ($7,721,640), came out with a combined export output of $111 million. As of May 2003, a total of 21,461 workers have been employed inside Clark.

As Clark celebrates its centennial, Dr. Angeles foresees an even brighter future for the former US Air Base as it begins its metamorphosis into an Aerotropolis, probably the one of its kind in Asia.



OUR PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

PLATINUM SPONSORS
- *Aderans Philippines, Inc.*
- *Clark Airport Support Services, Inc.*
- *Clark Pipeline & Depot Co., Inc.*
- *Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation*
- *R.D. Policarpio & Co., Inc.*
- *Smart Shirts (Pjils.), Inc.*
- *Yokohama Tire Philippines, Inc.*
- *Berthaphil, Inc.*
- *UPS International, Inc.*

SILVER SPONSORS
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ADVT.

People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

ATR-Kim Eng launches Alfa

ATR-KIM Eng Financial Corp, the country's largest non-bank investment firm, launched recently its newly acquired insurance arm AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp, vowing to be one of the country's top 10 insurance companies in two years.

SHOWN at the press briefing are, from left, Ricky Alberto, Ramon Arnaiz, Manuel Tordesillas, and Ding Mammuad.

Formerly known as All Asia Life Assurance Corp, the company was acquired and renamed AsianLife Financial Assurance Corp (Alfa) by ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp in March 2002.

ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp is the largest non-bank investment house in the country, which was recently awarded as 2002 Best Local Investment Bank in the Philippines by Finance Asia Magazine.

ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp president and chief executive officer Manuel N. Tordesillas said that prior to the takeover, All Asia Life Financial Assurance Corp was one of the fastest growing life insurance companies in the country. It is among the top 20 insurance providers in the country today.

"We expect to begin reaping the fruits of success next year and be one of the top 10 insurance companies in two years," Tordesillas vowed.

"Under the new management, we will focus our thrust on a number of niches that include offering affordable insurance policies to more people," said Tordesillas.

According to Tordesillas, the company is committed to consistently bring international capital and financial management technology to its business units and be the best in the country.

"With a capital base of approximately P1.7 billion and P2.4 billion in assets, we assure our customers of healthy financial state and stability. We are even confident to provide excellent customer relations and service with 17 branches and 250 sales force deployed all over the country," said Tordesillas.

As Alfa rebuilds its foundation, Tordesillas said, they are looking at reinstating old policyholders and even target to gain new policyholders.

Alfa is not just an insurance provider, but also a "friend for life" who guides and helps one in determining the best financial program from among a wide range of products and services it offers.

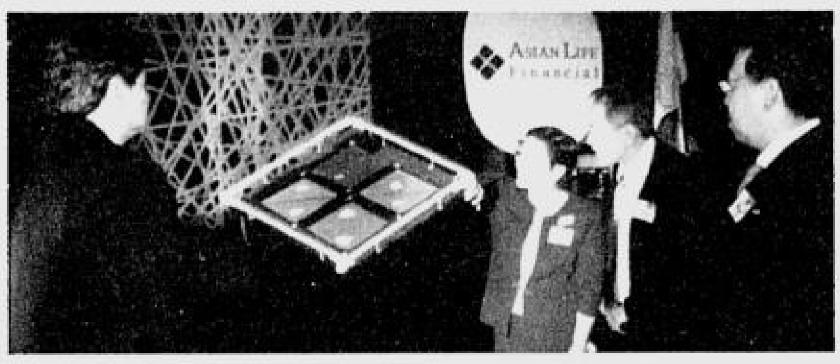
The company also allows one to tap into a wealth of resources and financial opportunities, as it offers services such as financial needs analysis, retirement planning, employee benefit, salary savings program, salary loans and insurance programs, and estate creation and conservation.

"Alfa offers genuine service and customized products to fit your every life insurance need and also assures to help you and your loved ones face the uncertainties of life," Tordesillas said.

"We believe in making you and your family the core of our commitment and continues o be the family you can rely on in the years ahead," he added.

The company also believes in a continuous quest for high quality standards in its products, services, and human resources.

It also maintains a pioneering spirit to explore new and better ways of servicing clients' needs in light of the very competitive insurance market.



VIDA Chiong with Alfa officers at the ceremonial lighting of the Alfa logo.

AT THE ceremonial toast are, from left, Ding Mammuad, Alfa CFO, Loi Mendoza, vice chair, Yosi Tanco, vice chair, Ramon Arnaiz, chair, Vida Chiong, deputy commissioner, Insurance Commission, Manuel Tordesillas, president, and Ricky Alberto, EVP/COO.

MOST Valuable Policyholders with Alfa officers. Shown are Lhoi Mendoza, MVP awardees Thomas Limchua, Hon Sing Yu, Lili Tanio Chua, and Andres Gatmaitan, Ding Mammuad, and Ricky Alberto.

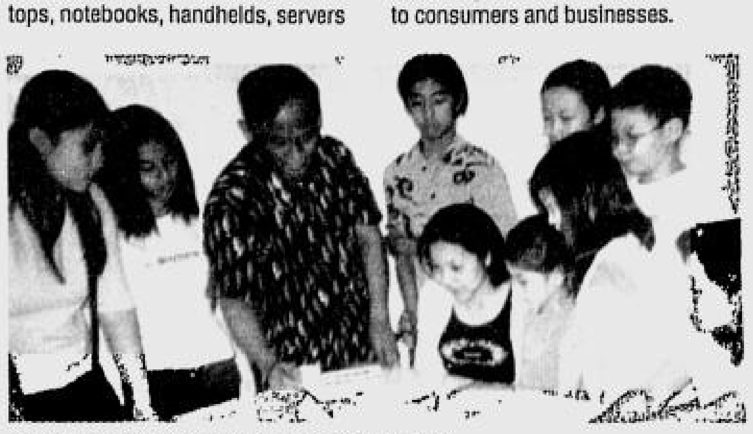
STAR-STUDDED OPENING FOR C2C

Image model Ana Capri, owner Cathy Valencia, actress Maria Isabel Lopez and model/actor John Hall shine as they grace the ribbon cutting ceremonies at newly opened C2C Face & Body Works, a center devoted to improving face and body. C2C offers skin care services and other aesthetic treatments. Visit C2C Face & Body Works at 1412 Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo Street, Legazpi Village, Makati or call 751-3990 for an appointment.

running the next mile with you.
hp npi 2003

HP UNVEILS NEW PRODUCTS FOR 2003

Nilo S. Cruz, HP Philippines' managing director, gives his welcome remarks during the HP New Product Introduction (NPI) 2003 event held recently at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati. The one-day event for commercial channel partners introduced HP's new printers, scanners, desktops, notebooks, handhelds, servers and storage products. The NPI event, with the theme 'Running the Next Mile With You', aims to put HP partners ahead of the competition and make them discover the true value of a powerful partnership with HP. HP is a leading global provider of products, technologies, solutions and services to consumers and businesses.



ART LESSONS FOR EXECUTIVES

The positivism Art Gallery is now accepting participants among Makati executives and employees who wish to learn drawings and paintings with focus on portraiture and caricature, fashion and figure drawings. The program, composed of 8 lessons once a week from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., is conducted by positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle, shown here giving a watercolor demo with some of his students at the last summer workshop. For inquiries, call 899-6358 or 0917-9726223.

Noel Bazaars upcoming

CONSUMER-oriented companies go to great lengths to get an idea of how the market will accept new products and/or services. Multinational companies will use a big chunk of their promotions and advertising budgets to market-test their products. Even before formal entry to the market, companies can make improvements and adjustments to their products.

Until recently, such methods were reserved for big companies with 9-digit advertising budgets. A popular trend now, utilized mostly by small- to medium-scale businesses, is the participation of trade expositions and shopping bazaars. This method has proven to be a highly effective yet less expensive means of gaining insights on market acceptance. More so, by gathering manufacturers and consumers together, expos and bazaars are getting more and more viable as a venue for generating immediate sales and creating business ties.

"Noel Bazaars have been a great help for start-up companies like us. It has paved the way for our clothes lines to be featured in fashion magazines, and at the same time created a following among the bazaaristas," quips Che Bendicion of Nui Clothing. Additionally, by joining bazaars, storeowners are able to get immediate feedback from direct consumers, leading to high confidence level of market acceptance.

With this line of thinking and such goals in mind, business people and NGOs in need strike a perfect combination in coming up with such productive activities. This year, three foundations are chosen to benefit from the Noel Bazaars Series: the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, the Hands On Manila Foundation and the GMA Kapuso Foundation.

"It has always been fulfilling to extend help to organizations, which have notable causes, through the conduct of these bazaars. We love doing these bazaars as we get to meet a lot of friends and discover great finds along the way. More so, knowing our efforts will go a long way is a mission we have come to embrace," said Mayose G. Bautista, president of CUT Unlimited Inc, the professional events manager of the Noel Bazaars.

The Noel Bazaar Series shall explore two new grounds this year at the Manila Polo Club on Oct. 25 and 26 and Nov. 29 and 30 and at the World Trade Center for the Christmas Shop Expo 2003 from Oct. 21 to 23. The organizers are looking for new faces to join the bandwagon who have the eye for unique, quality and trendy products. Manufacturers of garments, house wares, novelty items, accessories, pastries, leather goods and holiday decors are urged to book early before booth spaces run out.

For inquiries, look for Cherry, Grace or Cecille at 687-2955, 687-0654, or 687-7523, or telefax 687-0604 or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph.

New Lifeline offers job opportunity for healthcare workers

DE VENECIA

NEW LIFELINE (Phil/USA) has moved to a new office at the Penthouse of Kikusui Building, 1656 Peñafrancia Street, Santiago Village, Bel Air, Makati with telephone numbers 890-4741/899-6994/897-9281 and e-mail address at New lifeline@aol.com.

Alex de Venecia, president/founder of New Lifeline (Phil/USA) just arrived from New York City. He will be conducting a "Job Opportunity Seminar" for registered nurses, physical therapists, teachers, business graduates and the newest group BS Radiology Tech. He will be assisted by Blanca de Venecia Soriano and Myka Ortega.

De Venecia invites business/joint venture partners as well as provincial coordinators. He is in the process of expanding his operation in United States.

O.F.W. LAND, INC.

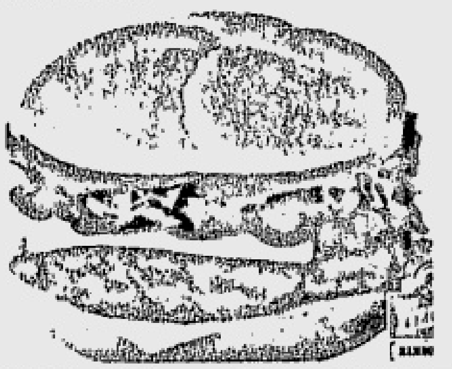
OFW LAND INKS PACT WITH METRO ASIA

OFW Land Inc. president and chief executive officer Ed R. Jabla (2nd from left) signs an agreement with Willie Evangelista (3rd from left), one of the founders of Metro Asia Resources Corp. for the marketing of its housing projects to overseas Filipinos worldwide (OFWs). OFW Land is the real estate marketing subsidiary of OFW International Holdings, the business arm of self-help organization OFW Net Foundation Inc. OFW Net was formed by leaders of foreign-based OFW organizations in various countries around the world for the eventual reintegration of migrant Filipinos into the mainstream society via entrepreneurial projects that generate jobs and livelihood. Flanking Jabla and Evangelista are Metro Asia associate sales director Philip Bartolome (left) and OFW Land executive vice president and chief operating officer Norman Ray Gacula. Standing at foreground is Metro Asia junior sales manager Robert Campuspos.

ProductFILES

Wendy's Chicken Bacon Swiss

A TASTY combination of Bacon and Swiss Cheese with a tangy sauce, Wendy's new Chicken Bacon Swiss goes for only P95, and is available in combo with regular fries and a large drink, too, for only P120. What are you waiting for? Visit your nearest Wendy's outlet and try one.



Pepperoni Crunch Madness

"SHAKEY'S Pepperoni Crunch is so good I've been ordering it every day for three days straight." This was overheard from one of the pepperoni crunch aficionados. People have been known to finish one party-sized pizza in one sitting. Who can blame them?

One can imagine the crispness of the thin crust, the meaty yet flavorful pizza topped with crispy and crunch shoestring potato toppings. It's a pizza in between two layers of crunchiness!

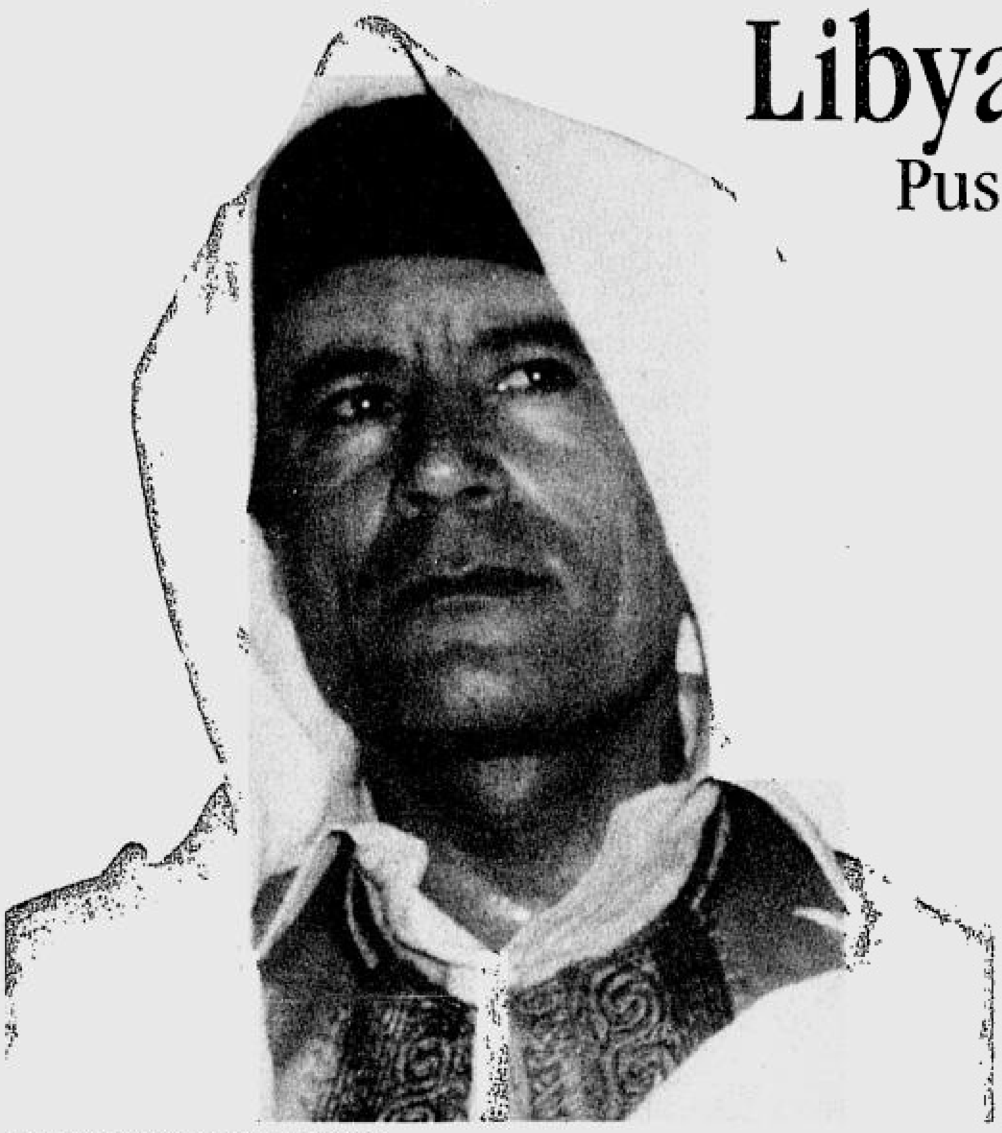
Shakey's now offers more than pizza. It has included rice meals, crispy cubes, apple squares, and even shakes.

Go to Shakey's and try the upgraded menu. For those who would rather stay in than eat out, Shakey's meals are just a phone call away with Shakey's Delivery at 533-8000. Visit its website, too, at www.shakeyspizza.ph.

34th Libyan National Day

Libya-Philippines relations

Pushing peace into the heart of development



THE LEADER Muammar al-Qathafi

The Tripoli Agreement continues to guide the peace process in the Philippines today. The wisdom that there should be a provision for the conduct of negotiations "within the framework of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines" is attributable to the pragmatism of the Leader Col. Muammar al-Qathafi

Driving Force

After three decades of mutual relation, Libya and the Philippines have found themselves animated by a paramount desire to forge peace in the southern Philippines.

The conflict in the southern Philippines, which has escalated in the early 1970s, was a masterstroke history called upon Libya and the Philippines to act on decisively. As both countries responded positively, however, they opened diplomatic relation on November 17, 1976.

That relation was to institutionalize the goodwill for peace, and not long after, it benefited both countries commercially, politically, economically, socially and educationally.

Peace Diplomacy

The Tripoli Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) was signed on December 23, 1976. It became the centerpiece for all peace initiatives between the government and the Bangsamoro people, from 1976 to 1996. On September 2, 1996, both parties signed the GRP-MNLF Final Peace Agreement, which not only strengthened the regional autonomy in the southern Philippines (ARMM) but also transformed it into a weapon of development and against terrorism.

Dr. Salem M. Adam (2002:63), Secretary (ambassador) of the Libyan People's Bureau in the Philippines, said that before the signing of the final peace agreement in 1996, two models of autonomy were made in order to implement the Tripoli Agreement. These were the former President Marcos' "Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook (LTP)" and former President Aquino's "Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)." However, he said: "The LTP was cate-

LIBYA/ B2-7

MESSAGE

I thank all our friends in the Philippines who have supported us in making our presence felt.

This year's celebration is dedicated to the role of African women in development.

In celebration of this year's 34th anniversary in Libya, we are gathering leading women from all over the world to share ideas with us, so that we can chart the direction for effective participation of our women.

The vision of the Leader Col. Muammar al-Qathafi is clear. He wants to remove the burden of poverty and ignorance that has perennially afflicted African societies. He wants this to be a comprehensive effort of every body in the society, most importantly the women sector. That is why we call the women gathering in Libya.

The interest of the Leader for development has also underscored the policy of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in her relation with other states. In the Philippines, we have begun cooperation in the field of investment to help the people in Mindanao, Muslim and Christian alike. The World Islamic Call Society had opened its office a couple of weeks ago. We are hoping that through this office, we can maximize our assistance in the areas of livelihood, housing and Muslim-Christian dialogue, to promote understanding and peace in the country.

We are connecting to the initiative of the Philippine government, through Honorable Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr., for the founding of UN Interreligious Council. We are supporting the idea because it is noble. We are committed to coordinate our efforts with the member countries of the OIC and the African Union, to get a lead within the United Nations under the auspices of Arab-African-wide bloc, in support of this idea.

Finally, as partner of the Philippine government in the peace process in the southern Philippines, we are supporting the government's effort to find a peaceful solution with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Mabuhay to all.

SALEM M. ADAM, Ph.D.
Secretary (Ambassador)
Libyan People's Bureau
Manila

Greetings from:

MPL International Corporation
Second Floor Victoria Building, 429
U.N. Avenue, Ermita, Manila
Tel. Nos. 526-0891,526-0984

Congratulations

To the
Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
on the Occasion
of its *34th Anniversary of the*
AL FATEH REVOLUTION

THIRTY-FOURTH CELEBRATION OF AL-FATEH REVOLUTION FOCUSES ON THE WOMEN OF AFRICA

THIS year's celebration of the 34th anniversary of the Al-Fateh Revolution on the First of September, takes a fresh direction. For the first time since the birth of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab 'Jamahiriya in 1969, the activities will be in celebration of the African woman.

The central event in this year's celebration is the General Assembly of Women in Governance set in Tripoli. It will bring together women delegates from all over the world. Being themselves involved in political and non-political governance, they will share with the women of Africa, their experiences in their respective countries.

From the Philippines, Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has been invited to lead the Philippine delegation. Because of the demanding affairs of state, however, Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who heads the Department of Labor and Employment, will attend in her place.

The international gathering of women leaders will help identify and define the women's role in attaining the three basic objectives of the African Union, namely, peace, development and prosperity, within the framework of a unified continental leadership. It is a crucial preparation for the women of Africa as they gear up to join the global women's movement.

The Emergence of the African Union

Over two years ago, The Leader Muammar Al-Qathafi of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya proposed to the assembly of African leaders of the creation of a "United States of Africa". At the same time, he pleaded with the leaders to renounce racism and become "masters of our continent." While initially received with some skepticism, it has since become a reality with the union of fifty-three (53) independent African states named simply as "African Union".

One of the radical changes introduced towards the strengthening of the African Union is the recognition of women's indispensable role and contribution in the attainment of the African Union's declared objectives.

This sudden awakening is the result of Africa's soul-searching through the decades of seemingly unchecked poverty in a land of plenty and intermittent conflicts. Relegated to the bottom of the list of resources and concerns was the African woman - a vast, almost limitless resource for lasting solutions - but heretofore untapped, and her potential, largely ignored.

Time and again, the independent states of Africa sought to solve their problems of poverty, continuing conflict and many more, by addressing deep structural handicaps, but to no avail. However, with the emergence of the African Union from the shadow of the Organization of African Unity, the realization dawned on the leaders that the multitude of problems stemmed from the exclusion of women and the pervasive and continuing gender bias against women at almost all levels: political, economic and social, which have served as a built-in obstacle to national efforts to attain better governance and a better life for the African people.

Reinventing Woman's Role

So far, the African woman has been identified with jobs requiring physical exertion such as the provider of water, fuel, food and other basic needs. Also, the woman's role, though not unique to the women of Africa, was mainly, to bear children, rear them, and manage the household.

Because of these "assigned" tasks, society's perception was that there was not much demand for higher education for the African woman. Hence, the consequent educational opportunities, together with social and cultural barriers, blocked off opportunities to better income and employment which would otherwise serve as the key to a more comfortable life for her and her family.

The woman of Africa, not unlike her sisters in other countries, bears the brunt of economic degradation caused by government and society's apathy to her plight. Her added psychological burden is the lack of sensitivity and recognition by government and society to woman's potential not only as a problem solver but as a key agent in achieving development, peace, and prosperity.

Fortunately, in many parts of Africa where the countries of the African Union are found, the efforts of the women, acting on their own initiative, are beginning to be felt. Particular to this is their role of protecting the environment, not only in confronting the harmful effects of disasters, but by being involved with broader environmental issues such as global warming and deforestation. The women of the African Union are moving into a special path in the attainment of their respective country's sustainable development. Other areas where they are gradually following the footsteps of their sisters in other countries are in helping shape government policy on population, food security, nutrition, loss of species and genetic resources, energy, industry, human settlements, and on the negative consequences of globalization.

It has been said that sustainable development in which the African woman is now poised to participate, means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs as producers and carers; as cultural guardians and the first educators of their children; and as the main environmental managers. The African woman will simply step into her natural niche in society, and do more than what would be expected on the premises.

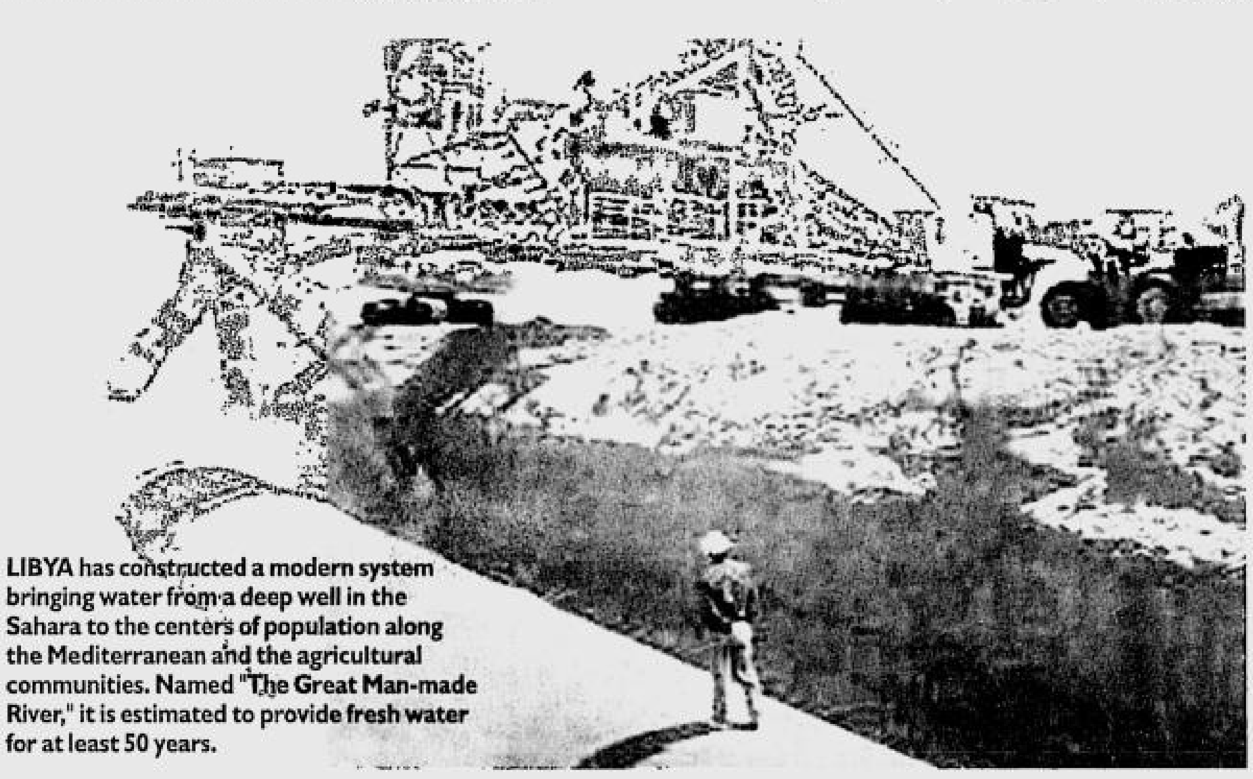
But the African woman like her sisters in the rest of the world, will eventually find her place only in a just and well ordered society - "a society in which all elements of inequality are either totally eradicated or reduced to the barest minimum, where equal opportunities exist for everyone in all spheres of life; where discrimination on the basis of color, religion, or wealth is either abolished or is made illegal." [1] Indeed, a just and well-ordered society is one in which opportunities exist for the full realization of human dignity by all members of the community. Libya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia have attained varying degrees of success in this regard.

All these however will be more easily attainable when women will participate on equal terms with the men, preferably within the framework of direct democracy as envisioned by the Leader Muammar Al-Qathafi, or at least, within a framework where she has a voice which others are bound to listen to, because spoken not only as follower but as leader.

Perhaps, the theory of direct democracy which does away with representation may not be possible in most countries within the framework of the African Union, but the aim of the AU to promote popular participation and good governance could serve as an acceptable take-off ground for the African woman's entry into political governance. While such field is traditionally "fraught with danger", the safeguards which have been instituted, consistent with democratic principles, could pave the way for a greater role for the African woman in assuring her voice and participation in decision-making which she badly needs in promoting peace and development in her country.

The Future

In close cooperation with her sisters from the rest of the globe, the future indeed promises a better life for Africans, particularly for its women. **[Contributed by: Dr. Fatemah Remedios C. Balbin]**



LIBYA has constructed a modern system bringing water from a deep well in the Sahara to the centers of population along the Mediterranean and the agricultural communities. Named "The Great Man-made River," it is estimated to provide fresh water for at least 50 years.

Footnote:

[1] *Nukunya; G.K., The Third Universal Theory and the Vision of a Just, Well-Ordered Society", Readings on The Green Book, p.66 (1989)*

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KCI *We are Experts In supplying Manpower Worldwide.*

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CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES !

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the 34th Anniversary of the Al-Fateh Revolution.

A. TRACK RECORD : KCI is a reputable contractor with several years of solid experience in supplying skilled manpower and professional personnel worldwide. Licensed by the Philippine government (POEA) and member of the prestigious Philippine Constructors Association (PCA), our completed and ongoing projects include manpower supply contracts in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and U.S.A. We are among the leading Philippine service contractors in Libya for over 10 years now with big multinational corporations as customers.

B. PRODUCTS, SERVICES, EXPERTISE : At any given time, KCI maintains thousands of skilled workers and professional personnel in its manpower pool who, after documentation, are all ready for mobilization. Well focused on its business of supplying manpower worldwide, the range of KCI expertise includes but not limited to-

- All kinds of maritime positions
- Civil workers, from foundation to finishing
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- Electro-mechanical workers
- Crane & heavy equipment operators & drivers
- Computer engineers, operators & other IT professionals
- Operations & maintenance personnel

C. CORPORATE PHILOSOPHY & MANAGEMENT VALUES :

TO OUR CUSTOMERS, we commit to deliver our obligations on schedule, at competitive price, and assured quality; it is our primordial aim to satisfy our customers ... that repeat orders would later on come naturally;

TO OUR SHAREHOLDERS, we promise to manage the business professionally by way of sound risk management, value analysis-based investment policies, carefully programmed growth, lean and mean organization, and optimized resource allocation ... that the eventual rate of return on their investments would be far better than prevailing market rates;

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Libya-Philippines relations

From page B2-5

gorically rejected by the MNLF. The ARMM, while initially rejected by the MNLF, was later on accepted as a companion measure to the GRP-MNLF Final Peace Agreement of 1996."

The Tripoli Agreement continues to guide the peace process in the Philippines today. The wisdom that there should be a provision for the conduct of negotiations "within the framework of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines" is attributable to the pragmatism of the Leader Col. Muammar al-Qathafi.

This provision promotes the principle of "sovereign equality" of the United Nations and further deepens the bilateral relations existing between Libya and the Philippines, beyond political consideration.

Thus from the initial peace-seeking "Muslim struggle" diplomacy, Libya-Philippines relation expanded to various strategic areas such as the oil diplomacy, UN Arab bloc diplomacy, OIC diplomacy, ASEAN diplomacy, trade diplomacy, and overseas labor diplomacy.

Trade and Labor Diplomacy

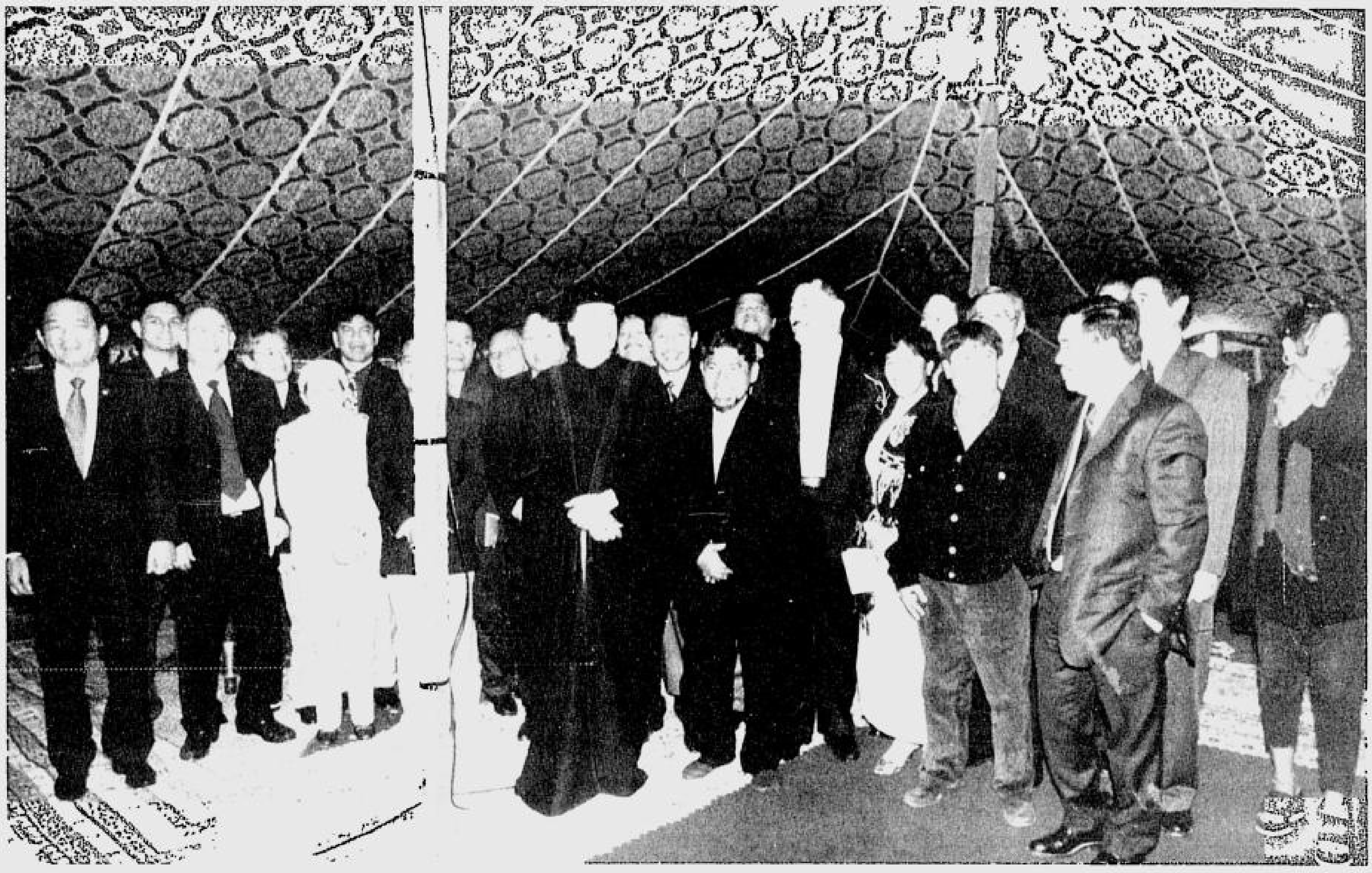
Last year, on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the First September Revolution, the focus was on trade diplomacy. Dr. Adam (2002:B-5) said that Libya had lined up several livelihood projects to draw in substantial investments for Mindanao, from the Islamic Fund of the OIC and individual Muslim countries, including Libya.

He says that as of today, Filipino labor workers deployed to Libya have increased in number from about 14, 000 last year to almost 20,000 this year, with more seen to be recruited.

GRP-MILF Diplomacy

The search for peace in the southern Philippines continues. As in the past, the Philippine government rests its hope on the role of the Muslim countries in the OIC. The current GRP-MILF talk is pushing ahead on stream. Libya fully supports this peace talk and the effort of the government to solve the problem with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front peacefully within its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In an interview, Dr. Adam expresses hope that with peace dividend expected to come out from the peace agreement between the GRP and the MILF, the development programs for Mindanao-Muslim and Christian alike-can proceed without break. He says, "Mindanao is a good place for the Philippines not only culturally but economically as well. With peace dividend from GRP-MILF agreement, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya can help push development to its farthest end." *[Contributed by: A. Jo Kashim]*



MEETING with the leader: The Leader Col. Muammar al-Qathafi received Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Dr. Salem M. Adam, Secretary (ambassador) to the Philippines, who accompanied all the leaders of the four groups of the MNLF, in a solidarity meeting on April 6, 2003 in Tripoli, Libya.

References:

1. Adam, Salem M., The Role of OIC Diplomacy in the Muslim Struggle in the Southern Philippines, Ph.D. dissenation (Asian Center: 2002), p. 63.
2. "Libya sees promise in trade relations with RP," Philippine Daily Inquirer's Special Project Supplement, (September 1, 2002), p. B-5.
3. Interview with this writer, Libyan People's Bureau, Makati City, August 27, 2003.
5. The Tripoli Agreement of 1976.
6. The UN Charter.

> Libya-Philippines relation expanded to various strategic areas such as the oil diplomacy, UN Arab bloc diplomacy, OIC diplomacy, ASEAN diplomacy, trade diplomacy, and overseas labor diplomacy

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We at Galaxy Services, Inc. join His Excellency **AMBASSADOR SALEM M. ADAM**, & The Staff of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Manila in commemorating the **34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AL FATEH REVOLUTION** also known as the **REVOLUTION OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1969** which marked the birth of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

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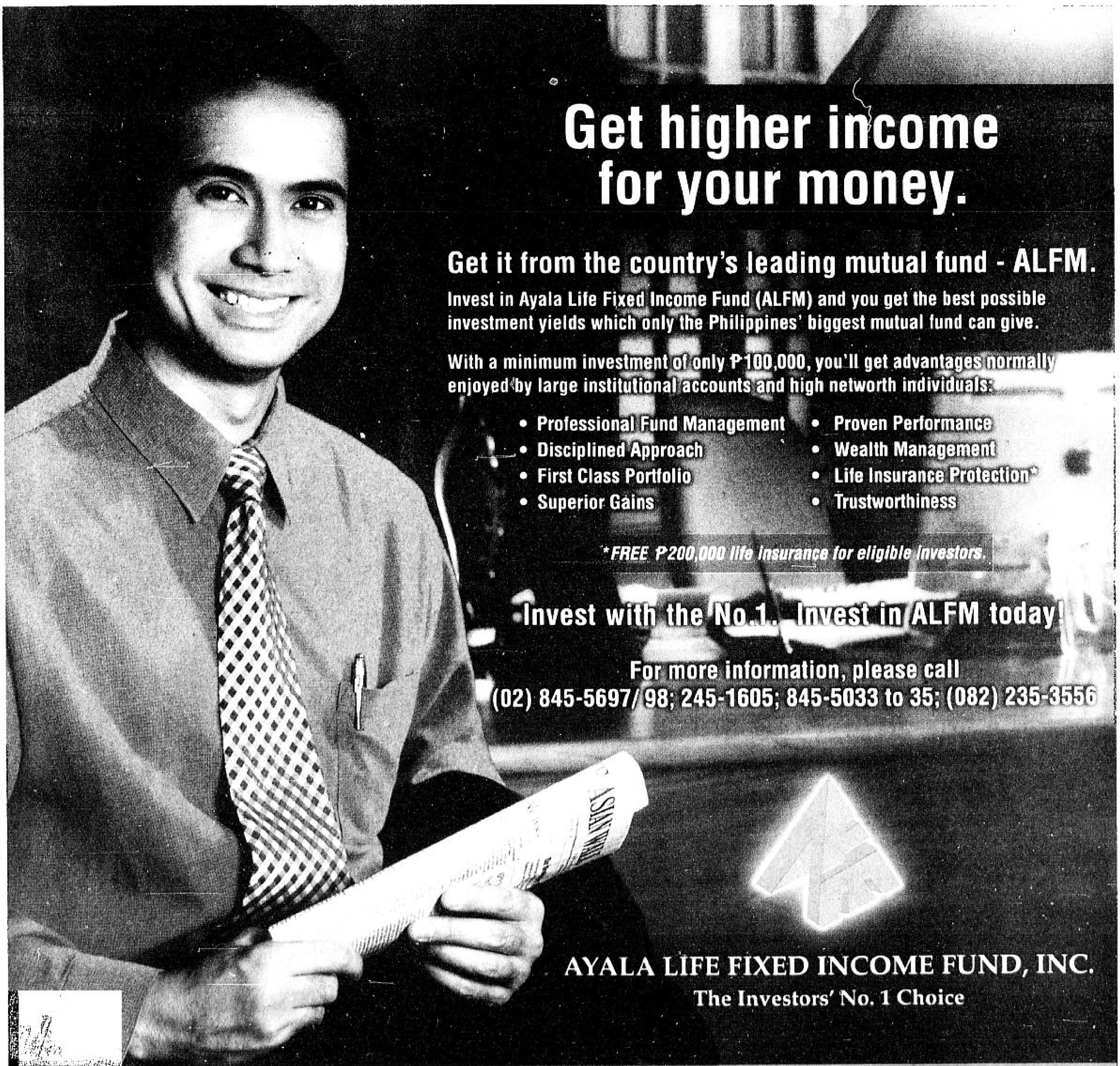

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ENTERTAINMENT

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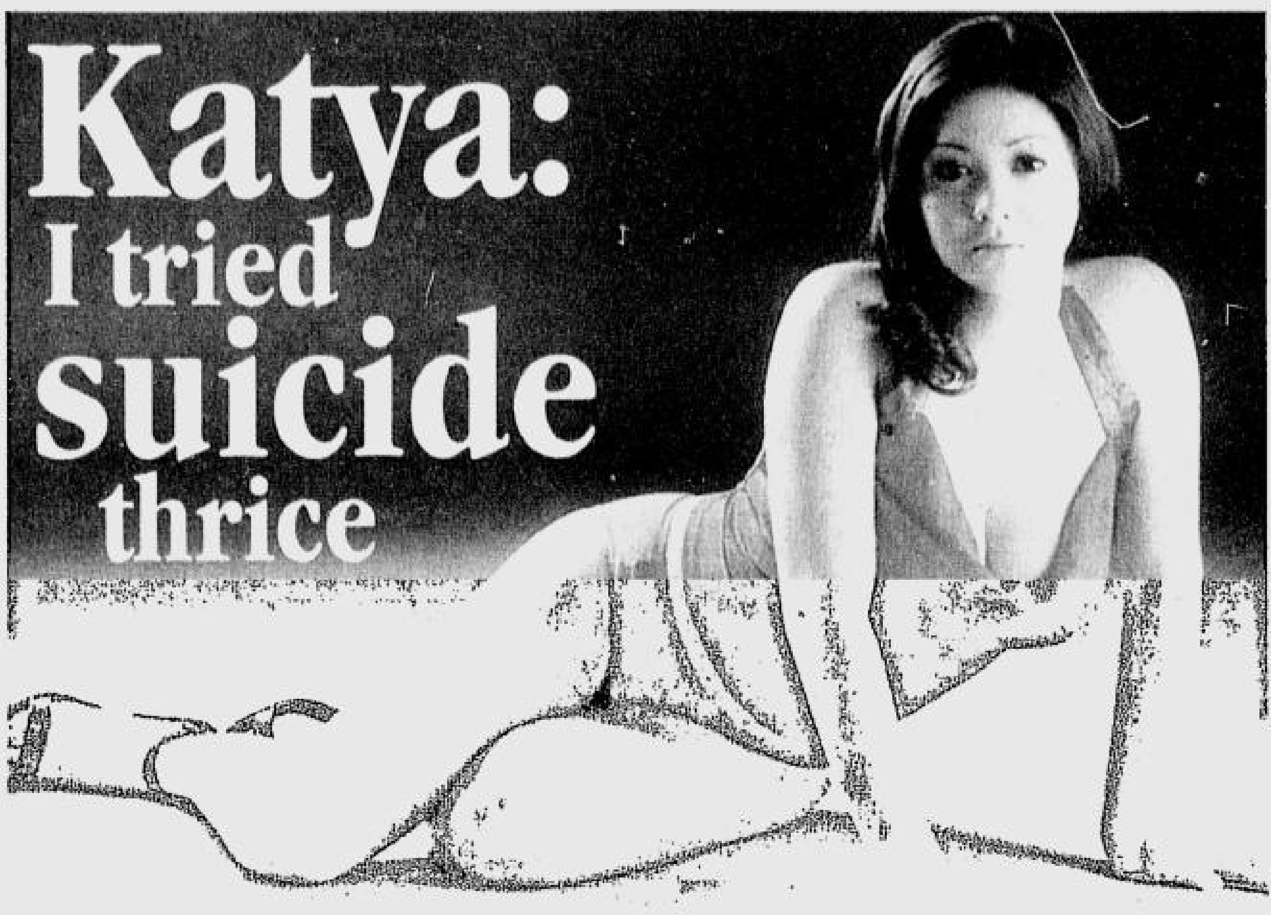
Editor Louie C. Camino

Katya: I tried suicide thrice



VICTIM OF LOVE. "I can kill for love," says Santos.

By Nini Valera

HOT babe Katya Santos attempted to kill herself at least three times over a former boyfriend.

The sex star told Inquirer Entertainment the tumultuous four-year relationship drove her to slash her wrists, overdose on painkillers and antibiotics and stand on the road so a car would run her over when she was 19.

"I was so emotional then," said Katya, now 21, in Filipino. "But I never succeeded in killing myself. I wasn't even brought to the hospital when I drank a handful of pills. My body took the abuse."

Most men would probably agree that it would have been such a waste if Katya had succeeded in taking her life. After a much-publicized liposuction procedure on her waist, Katya now has a contoured figure, thanks to Vicky Belo, whose services the sexy star now endorses.

Katya said she left the rest of her body untouched by Belo's knife.

"My boobs are my asset," she said in between mouthfuls of bloody steak Tartare. "They're natural. I've never had breast augmentation."

She continued to reveal the darkness in her soul as she said, "I have moments like these... when I want to destroy myself. I'm an Aquarian and very volatile."

"If I'm pushed to the brink, I can do anything, " she added. "I can kill for love."

Killing for love was the storyline of her "Keka," the quirky, movie by director Quark Henares ("Gamitan"), who's only about a year older than she.

Pete Roa undergoes hip surgery after bad fall

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE ROAS with two grandsons. No mahjong for now.

PETE Roa, the husband of actress Boots Anson-Roa, last Saturday was declared out of danger after undergoing a nine-hour operation on a fractured hipbone he suffered from a bad fall last week.

According to Boots, Pete, 63, had a hip replacement surgery at the Capitol Medical Hospital in Quezon City from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Pete fell down the stairs of their house, also in Quezon City, while he was on his way to the bathroom at 3:30 a.m. last Aug. 22, Boots said.

"I was sleeping when it happened," Boots told Inquirer Entertainment. "I took him to the hospital because he complained of pain in his left hip."

Three years ago, Pete suffered a stroke

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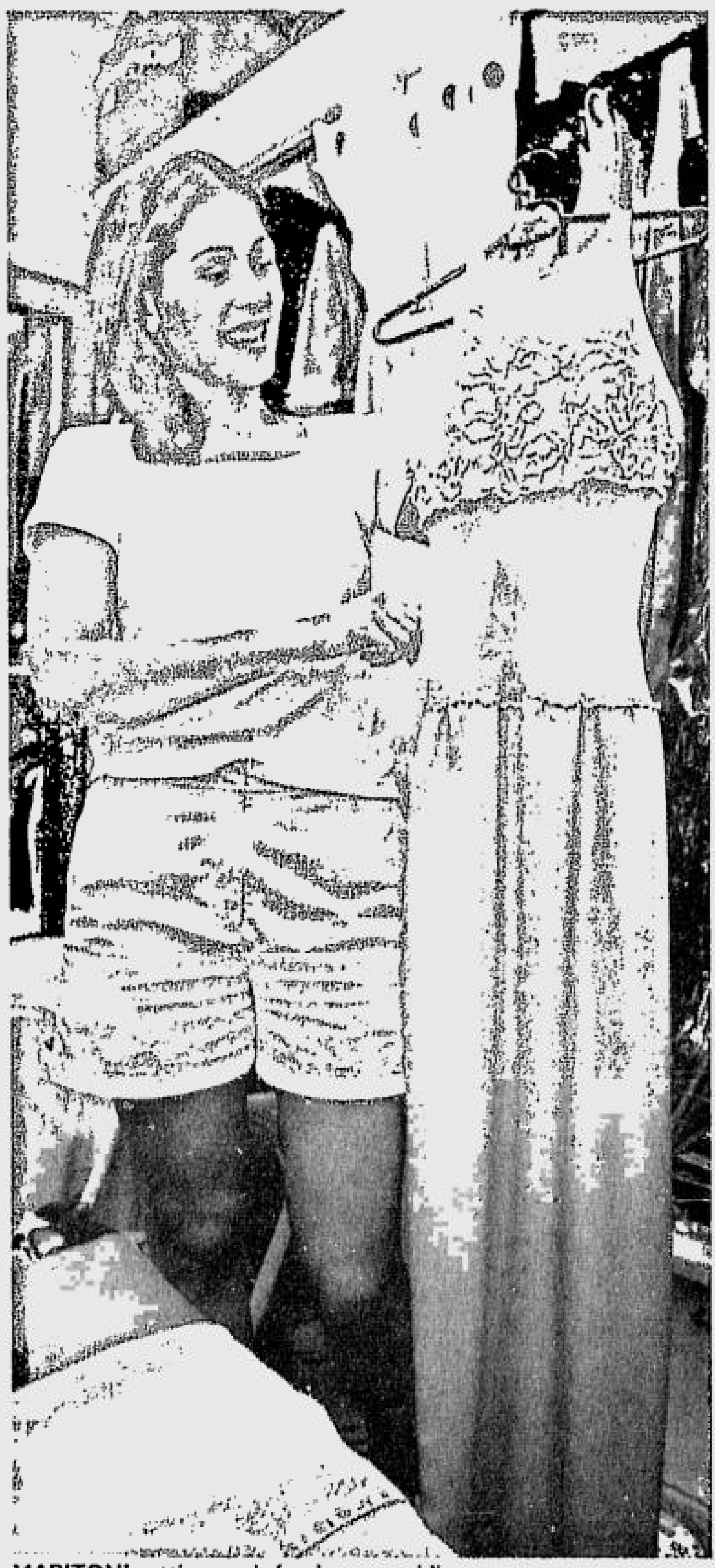
DID YOU KNOW...

Piolo Pascual, now always described as award-winning actor following his grand-slam for his heart-wrenching turn in last year's "Dekada '70" by **Chito Roño**, was seen watching Ballet Philippine's "Darna" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines with a little boy, believed to be his son Yñigo. Piolō, who plays Lance in the weekly youth series "Buttercup," was wearing a hat but people still recognized him and requested that their pictures be taken with him.



MARITONI getting ready for dream wedding. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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Potentially controversial production

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TIKOY Aguiluz's latest movie, "www.xxx.com," is a potentially controversial production that is likely to polarize local film buffs.

Some viewers may get turned off by a number of exploitative sex scenes, weak performances, slow pacing, muggy visuals, and the movie's other debit points.

To our mind, however, they are compensated for in part by the significance of the film's subject matter: the sex trade on the Internet.

This scene is as trendy and shoddy as you can get, but it's very topical, and should be dealt with on film.

Even more significantly, it touches on a provocative theme: modern man living in a virtual world, where even sex and love are paid for and experienced via the Internet.

This is significant because virtual reality is becoming the "actual" reality of an increasing number of people, for whom technology has replaced traditional lifestyles and values.

It's heartening to see that, after all of the virtual fun and games, the production has its female protagonist coming to the realization that, for all of its trendiness and cutting-edge excitement, virtual reality is a dead-end street and is no way to live. So, she decides to go back to the real world, and thus reclaims her humanity.

To vivify this material, Aguiluz employs a documentary-style approach that feels right for the high-tech world that his characters inhabit. Unfortunately, this style occasionally results in muggy visuals and sound that make the production look rushed.

Another limitation is the movie's slow pacing, which distends its storytelling and eventually leaves viewers cold and bored. The actors' weak performances add to the production's generally phlegmatic feel, despite the heat that its sexy scenes generate.

In particular, little is supplied by the script to flesh out the central character, Joanna (**Juliana Palermo**). In fact, we are told much more about a less important character, Habibi (**Angelu de Leon**), so we get to understand her better.

Even **Gary Estrada**, who's usually a competent actor, can't do much with his character here, the owner of the local sex site on the Net. Perhaps due to its fixation on sex and technology, the movie doesn't pay sufficient attention to the human and empathetic aspects of its story.

Thus, when all is said and done, the initially promising Juliana Palermo fails to measure up to her potential. She bares too often and cares too little, so she doesn't make as big a thespic mark in this production as she should have.

Still, despite its weak points, this movie does pack some topical thematic punches, so it should be viewed.

Thanksgiving concert

FR. MANOLING Francisco, SJ, who gave us the timeless "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," is helping the "parish without a church," Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Loyola Heights, in Quezon City, mount a thanksgiving concert of contemporary Pilipino liturgical music, most of which he composed. Performances are at 3 and 7 p.m. on Sept. 6 at the Ateneo's Irwin Theater.

The concert is the parish's way of thanking its parishioners and benefactors who have contributed to its church construction fund.

The show, "Pista ng Ating Pasasalamat," will feature **Nolyn Cabahug**, **Jet Pangan**, **May Bayot**, a 16-piece chamber group and a 100-member choir from Ateneo and Marikina.

For tickets, call the parish at 434-2397 or the Ateneo's Jesuit Music Ministry at 426-1023.

Newest wizard

JOHN Sithli Mendoza of Makati Science High School topped the third quarterly finals of "Digital LG Quiz" recently. He bested three other contenders by garnering 400 points, making him eligible for the grand finals later this year.

"Digital LG Quiz" airs on GMA and is produced by Alta Productions Group.

Reeve on 'Smallville'

DO tune in to "Smallville" on Tuesday, Sept. 2 (9 p.m., Studio 23) for **Christopher Reeve**'s special appearance in an episode titled "Rosetta." Reeve plays a reclusive and paralyzed genius who wants to meet the teenage Clark Kent (**Tom Welling**).

The episode's special resonance is of course derived from the fact that Reeve is the best-known movie Superman.

Jose and Paolo brothers no more

REVIEW

By Gibbs Cadiz

PEOPLE with New Age inclinations may be forgiven if they think Film-Am actors Paolo Montalban and Jose Llana are brothers—perhaps even twins—in a previous life.

Llana and Montalban actually look alike—both about 6 feet tall, impressively built, and good-looking in an unmistakably *Pinoy* way. Both of them were born in the Philippines but grew up in the US, accounting for a shared lack of fluency in Filipino.

Both found their calling in musical theater. Montalban first joined a touring production of "Man of La Mancha," while Llana was cast in the Gene Kelly role in a special revival of "On The Town" in Central Park, before they gained fame for their breakthrough lead roles in two Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals—"Cinderella," a TV production where Montalban played the Prince opposite Brandy and Whitney Houston as the Fairy Godmother, and "Flower Drum Song," the recent Broadway revival with Llana playing Ta to Lea Salonga's Mei Li.

At one point, their paths even converged. In the 1996 Broadway restaging of "The King and I," another Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, Llana was Lun Tha, while Montalban cooled his heels as his understudy and as a member of the ensemble!

Both Llana and Montalban have also had recurring exposure on popular TV shows—Llana in "Sex and the City" and Montalban in "Mortal Kombat."

Finally, as if to underscore the continuing link between the two, their debut albums were released within months of each other, thus causing a jockeying for prominent position on the Tower Records hit list. (Last we checked, Llana's album was doing better.)

Distinct

But all these similarities end when one listens to the albums. Despite their shared musical backgrounds, Llana and Montalban's respective works are starkly dissimilar, and may perhaps point to distinct career plans for each one.

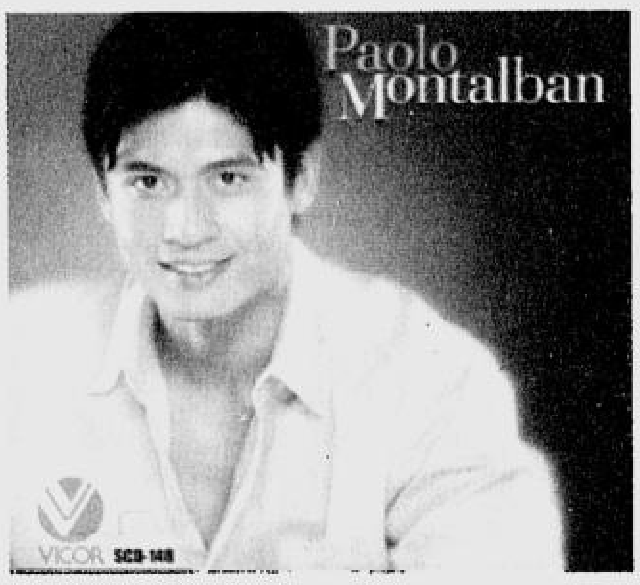
Llana's is the classically-trained voice, beautifully cultured, a high and powerful tenor.

Montalban has a high baritone that's perfect in a leading-man material. His is a more accessible, laidback sound—more "pop" than traditional Broadway, if you will.

Here's the catch: Ironically, Llana, with his cultivated theatrical pipes, opted to make a thoroughly pop album, while Montalban brewed a mix of pop, jazz, and good old Broadway. The results are revealing, to say the least.

Compromised

Llana's repertoire consisted entirely of Filipino favorites. Unfortunately, the resulting album is a compromised one. Llana's strong tenor overexerts itself in a number of tracks, creating a nasal, strident sound. This is most evident in the one new song in the line-up, Louie Ocampo's "To Love You Once Again," and in tracks such as "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and even Rey Valera's "Walang Kapalit."



Jose
josellana

Llana has a thoroughly pop album, while Montalban has a mix of pop, jazz and Broadway–with revealing results.

An octave or two higher and his voice assumes a tinny sheen, marring the neatness of his notes and the obvious heart he pours into his singing (even if his shaky Tagalog also makes him occasionally sound like a two-bit Japanese singer—Ted Ito, anyone?—doing Pinoy *karaoke*).

Good thing there are 14 tracks in this album, as Llana redeems himself with other songs. No surprise, but he's at his marvelous best singing Broadway-ish tunes—Ryan Cayabyab's soaring, picaresque "Nais Ko," for instance, which would not be out of place in a musical like "Pippin." And when he sings the symphonic George Canseco compositions (especially "Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan"), all the profound beauty and majesty of those songs come alive.

He also does a spare but heartfelt "Let the Pain Remain," accompanied only by Willy Cruz's elegant piano tinkling. While Llana got altogether classy arrangements, he was ill-advised to tackle the more contemporary Tagalog hits, with hardly a change in their "pop" arrangements.

Not only do the songs shortchange his voice with their limited range, their very ubiquity is also a burden. How, after all, can you top Gary Valenciano's epic-of-the-heart rendition of "Kailangan Kita?" Llana's take is an improvement over Piolo Pascual's effete version, but that's about it.

Next time, let's hope he gets off his "tribute-to-my-country-of-origin" mindset and starts singing Rodgers and Hammerstein—heck, even Gines Tan's "Magsimula Ka" will do!—again.

Confident

Montalban opted to play to his strengths in his debut album. Yes, there are one or two "commercial" Pinoy songs here, but Montalban breezes through them, his grasp of the language so secure they actually come off as viable, catchy tracks deserving of radio play.

The second track, for instance, an Alcasid-like ballad titled "Kung 'Di Tayo, Paano Na?" but composed by Soc Villanueva and Arnel de Pano, benefits from Montalban's creamy, easygoing phrasing.

It's a skill (akin to a less schmaltzy Barry Manilow) that he deploys time and again to good use in such songs as "She," which he transforms from Elvis Costello's gruff valentine into a sensuous declaration of love, and "Ikaw," which, despite its irritating back beat, he manages to bring to church and sing like a hymn.

Montalban even does a bit of experimentation when he weaves "Pure Imagination" into a jazzy, chillout hybrid tune, with "Girl From Ipanema" purring in the background. And he didn't forget his theater roots, either. The opening song, "Close Upon the Hour" (from a little-known musical called "King of Hearts") is a joyous welcome to possibility, a more dreamy version of "Something's Coming" that Montalban sings full-throttle, with, as you can imagine him doing, arms wide open.

Missteps

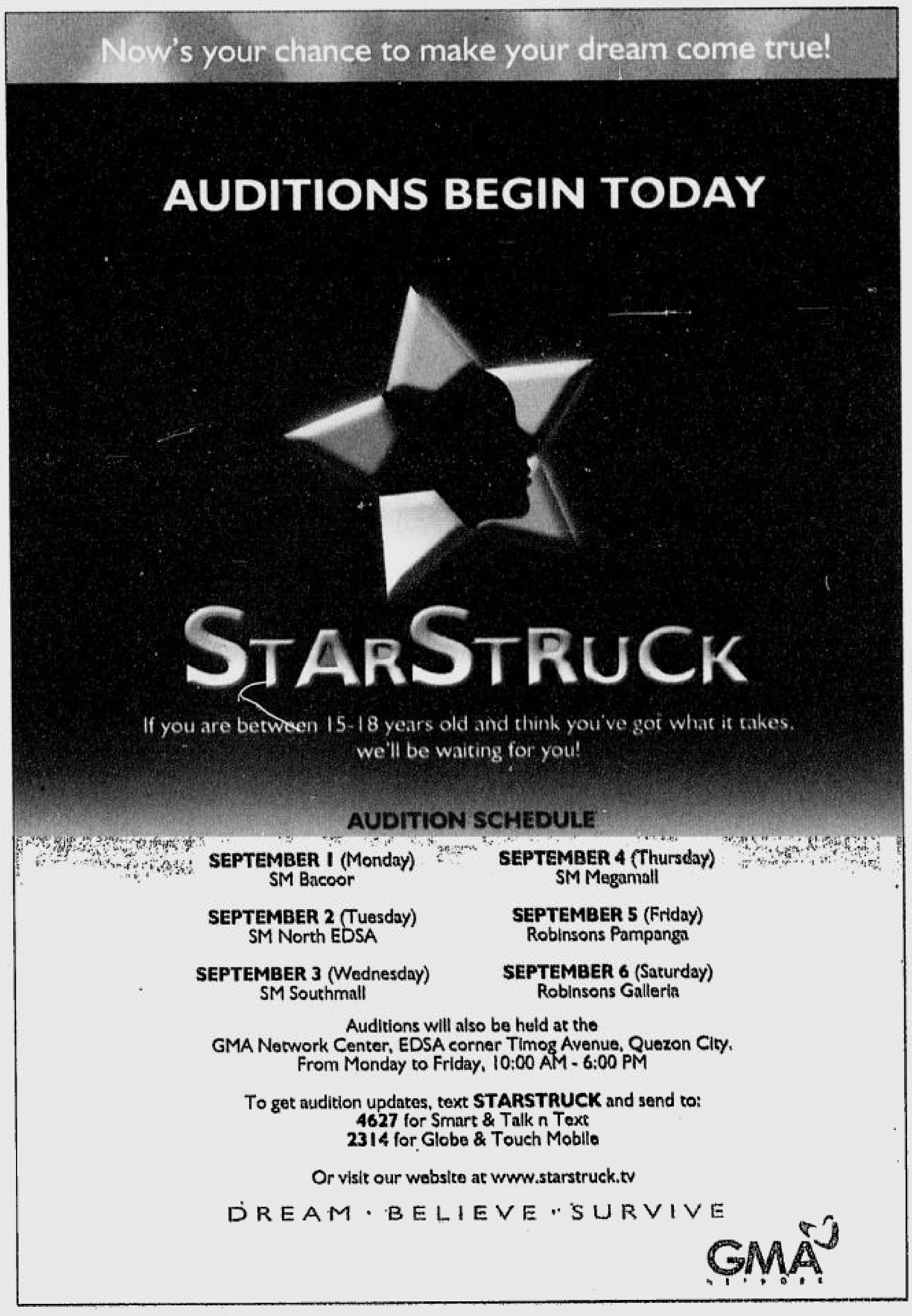
Near the end, he revisits "Cinderella" and "The King and I" by singing a medley of "Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful" and "I Have Dreamed"—wonderfully sung throughout, except, again, for a pseudo-pop rhythmic background that pointlessly embellishes Rodgers' music.

Why, oh, why can't our arrangers leave well enough alone? And why must they insist on synthesizer sounds that are a dreary throwback to the '80s?

Montalban's missteps in this album include a pop-rock ditty that suffers from atrociously clichéd lyrics and a kitschy bonus track that merges two honkytonk staples: "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" and "Only You."

His mom liked the medley so much, he says in the liner notes, he just had to put it in. That only shows that when it comes to debut albums meant to show you off in the best light, cheerleading mom, much like overenthusiastic handlers, doesn't always know best.

Email the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



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Mowelfund is headed by executive director Boots Anson-Roa. Bagong Henerasyon is a brainchild of the Quezon City Councilor's League.

The project is for the benefit of low-income movie workers who will be assisted through alternative livelihood programs like basic haircutting, reflexology, computer training and food processing.

The ribbon-cutting to the bazaar will be held at the Quezon City Hall covered walkway, immediately after the flag-raising ceremony on Sept. 1 with Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Councilor George Bernal who is president of the councilor's league, Councilor BH Herrera, Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, Councilor Aiko Melendez, Anson-Roa and guests from the entertainment industry.

Those who immediately and generously supported the project are Rep. Imee Marcos, Gladys Reyes, Lorna Tolentino, Patrick Garcia, Delia Razon, Rez Cortez, Ciara Sotto, Pilita Corales, Toby Alejar, Dingdong Dantes, Nanette Inventor, Gary Valenciano, Rosa Rosal, Eddie Garcia, Jolina Magdangal, George Canseco, Lucita Soriano, Jojo Alejar, Sen. Tito Sotto and Helen Gamboa, Joyce Jimenez, Nancy Castiglione, Bernadette Allyson, Gary Estrada, Judy Ann Santos and Cesar Montano.

Also included in the bazaar are items from 18 other celebrities.

New heart-stopping tale on GMA

EUN SUH

GMA 7 brings its viewers another heart-stopping tale, "Endless Love," featuring Korea's most sought-after young icons.

The story revolves around one of Korea's most beautiful women, Eun Suh. She was switched at birth with another baby, but Eun Suh and her rich foster parents were both unaware of it until an accident led to revelation of the secret. The couple's real daughter turns out to be Shin Ae, Eun Suh's fiercest rival in school. Eun Suh is forced to leave home and live a poor life. Her foster parents and their son, Yoon Jun Suh, leave for America.

Years later, the handsome and cultured Yoon Suh returns to Korea as a successful artist who is set to marry. His best friend, meanwhile, has fallen for Eun Suh. Through the friend, Eun Suh and Yoon Jun Suh unexpectedly meet again, and fall deeply in love with each other.

What will become of this love triangle?

"Endless Love" premieres on Wednesday, Sept. 3, after "Habang Kapiling Ka."

YOON SUH

Machonurin ka ba?

Mga maskulado, maton, stuntman at bodybuilder...haharapin ang hamon ng buhay-babae!
Patikim pa lang yan. Marami pang kuwela at kakaibang mga challenge na dapat abangan!

Simula September 1, gabi-gabi nang bibida! extra challenge 7:00 PM • LUNES-BIYERNES GMA

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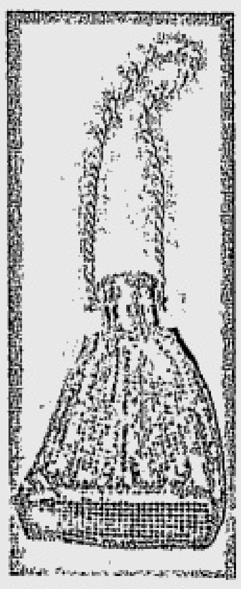
Dreams coming true for Maritoni

IN THE ARMS of Hans, a fellow survivor of a failed marriage, she is alive and well and happy.

After surviving cancer, she is looking forward to marrying her man, in May in England, and opening a line of sports clothes



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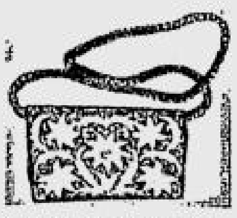


PRECIOUS PURSE with semi-precious stones

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS Maritoni Fernandez says she is on her way to living her dream life. She is about to marry the man of her life, and come out with a line of sports clothes that she herself will design.

"Hans (Montenegro) and I are preparing for our England wedding, which is my dream wedding," says Maritoni. "But everything really depends on our finances. If we have enough money come May, we'll go to England. If we don't, we'll get married here."

Maritoni separated from her husband of 10 years, Alex Alvarez, with whom she has a daughter, Alexi, now 8. Hans also had a failed marriage, to former beauty queen Cara Subijano, with whom he has Ashley, now 6.

"Hans and Cara got married in the States while my ex-husband and I got married in Hong Kong," says Maritoni. "None of us asked for our family's blessings. We want to do it right this time. Just family, no big show biz event."

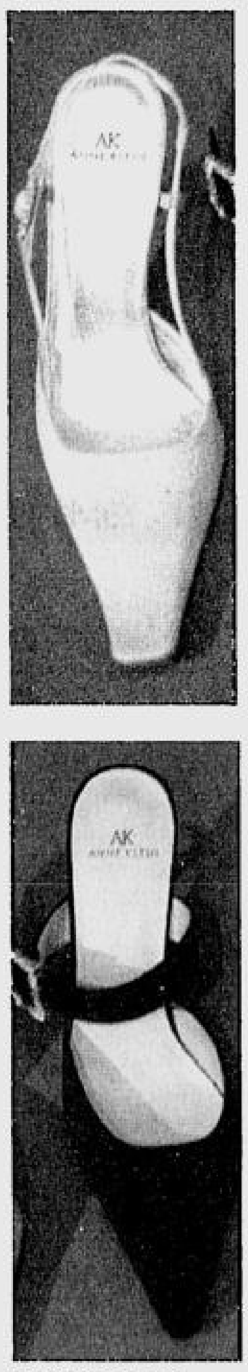
Nowadays, Maritoni loves spending time with Hans and Alexi at home, like the day of the INQUIRER Entertainment visit. Hans' daughter Ashley, who lives with her mom in California, was then spending her vacation with them.

"If I'm not home, I'm with Hans playing badminton, or in the gym," says the actress. "This is why I really spend on sportswear. One of my dreams is to come out with my own line of gym outfits for women, jogging pants that have matching zip-up jackets."

Maritoni says she is looking for suppliers of raw materials in the States and plans to have the clothes produced there, "not here in the Philippines, because I don't think they will come out as nice."

She bought jogging outfits and sweatshirts not only because she loves to wear them but also to serve as samples of clothes she plans to design. She also collects hats and golf and baseball caps, "so I can still look chic even when I'm having a bad hair day."

"I'm so simple when it comes to dressing up," she says. "The only time you will see me really dressed up is when I attend formal events like award shows or ribbon-cutting ceremonies."



STEPPIN' OUT in Anne Kleins

On these occasions, Maritoni likes to wear gowns by Nono Palmos. "He is my first choice when it comes to cocktail dresses. He has a mannequin in his shop that's exactly my size. I don't have to go to the shop for fittings."

Maritoni, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001, goes to the States every three months for medical check-up. She also shops for her and her daughter's clothes.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

HIS AND HERS. With her own Alexis (left) and Hans' Ashley on vacation from the US

Sportswear. "This low-waist pair of jogging pants is my favorite because it looks cute on me. Very J. Lo *ang dating, 'di ba*? I can mix and match it with other tops.

"I always wear this velvet jogging outfit whenever I travel because it's classy and comfortable. I got it about two years ago. It really keeps you warm on the plane. *Hindi siya baduy.* You can also wear sandals with it."

Blouse and skirt. "I really don't like the peasant look, and this is as peasant as I will go. I bought the skirt and blouse separately, at Forever 21, one of my favorite shops in the States."

White shirts. "Since we're in a tropical country, I like wearing white. I was influenced by my mom. If I find one white shirt that looks great on me, I buy 10 of the same style in the same color. I'm also a jeans and T-shirt girl."

Gowns. "I wore this in a scene in the FPJ movie 'Ayos na ang Kasunod.' Guess what my name there is? Violeta, just like this violet dress. This is Nono Palmos.

"I wore this black gown to the Famas Awards night last June. This is Larry Espinosa. He always makes me look super sexy. His styles accentuate the waistline.

"This is one of my favorite gowns. Nono Palmos made this, too. I've had this for years. I wore this when I hosted a portion of the 1994 Miss Universe pageant at the Euphoria Disco. It still fits me. The last time I wore this was at a friend's wedding this year.

"This one I wore the first time when I got back from the States after my bout with cancer. It's a Nono Palmos. He's like a brother to me. He's my first choice when it comes to gowns. He said it's very regal. I love the color. Rust has got to be one of my favorite colors."

Jackets. "I bought this in the States while I was recuperating. It's really cute. *Uso ito noon*. They had it in red and black. I wanted it in both colors but I found it a little more expensive than I could afford. I knew I wouldn't get to wear it much here anyway.

"This is a wool jacket. I also have one in the States. I don't want to bring all of my wool and fur jackets here because they will all shed in our temperature. *Sayang*.

"I bought this Prada jacket because of the red lining. I wear this with black pants. I usually leave the jacket open because of the red lining."

Jeans. "I have discovered that there is a brand from the States that fits me so well. It's C'est toi. It means 'it is you' in French. And it is very me! If you notice, I have a very small waist, but have a very big butt! So it's hard to find a pair that fits well in the waist and the hips. Normally, I have to have it let in. This also happens to be the pair I was wearing on the night Hans and I met on 'Mel and Jay.'"

A HEAD for hats and golfer's caps

Hats. "I love collecting hats and caps, but my favorite is this hat from Burberry. Very J Lo.

"This cap was given by Dre, my sister's ex-boyfriend. He knows that I love caps and when I saw this I begged him to give it to me, although it has his name on the back.

"This white golfer's hat has a letter M on it. M stands for Maritoni, but the M here is actually for Mossimo."

Perfume. "I always wear Dune. That's my signature cologne. But when I was still in school in England, I used Oscar de la Renta because it smelled good in cold weather. I still keep a bottle. I spray it on when I feel like reminiscing. Scents have a way of doing that. They transport you to a different time and place.

"My day cologne is from Bath and Body Works, which unfortunately we don't have here. It's Lavender, a body spray. It reminds me of my *lola*, who also loves the scent. I discovered this when I was undergoing treatment in the States. I keep a full stock. Every time I travel I buy six bottles.

"This cologne from Marc Jacob just came out in the market in the States. A bottle normally costs a hundred dollars, but I got mine for half the price. I have a supplier, they're the ones who sell to the malls."

High heels. "They're new and they're from Anne Klein. I like them because they are classy, functional, go with almost anything, and do they make my legs look hot! Black and beige are the two colors you can never go wrong with."

Rubber shoes. "I have 20 pairs of rubber shoes but my favorites are my Speedos because Hans bought them for me. They are worn on the beach. We love the beach. The moment we have a free weekend, we go swimming. Our most recent swimming trip was at the Plantation Bay in Cebu."

DREAMS/ C6

BOTTOMS UP. Alexis picks a favorite

VIOLET for Violeta, her character in an FPJ movie

HOT STRAPS that make her legs look hot!

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SPY KIDS 3D	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	Artfilm 1 BEST OF CINEMANILA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 SPY KIDS 3D 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	THX 1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	2 SPY KIDS 3D	2 BEST OF CINEMANILA	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:40, 3:20, [illegible], 8:40, 11:20	2 SPY KIDS 3D
3 LXG	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LXG 12:30, 3:00	Onstage BEAUTY & THE BEAST (THE MUSICAL PLAY) Sept. 18 - 7PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 TALK TO HER 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	3 THE ITALIAN JOB
4 THE ITALIAN JOB	4 WAKING UP IN RENO		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FINDING NEMO 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	4 VIEW FROM THE TOP
	5 THE ITALIAN JOB		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE ITALIAN JOB 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	5 FINDING NEMO
	6 FINDING NEMO			
	VIEW FROM THE TOP			

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11 KEKA
12 TALK TO HER

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5 NAKED WEAPON
6 FINDING NEMO

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4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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11:10 FS/11:40 MF/2:30/5:20/8:10/10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

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2 TALK TO HER 11:45, 2:00, 4:20, 6:10	5 WAKING UP IN RENO 10:20, 12:25, 2:30, 4:35
3 ITALIAN JOB 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50	6 SPY KIDS 3 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 VIEW FROM THE TOP 11.00, 12.50, 2:40, 4:30, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00	9 FINDING NEMO 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8 LXG 111:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	10 NOON AT NGAYON 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

MATINEE PRICE: P90 THX cinema / P75 Level cinemas
Mon.- Fri. / 10am - 4pm (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

Ermita 536-717809 TO 13
1 SPY KIDS 3 - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
2 FINDING NEMO 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 ITALIAN JOB 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
4 LXG 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45
5 NOON AT NGAYON 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:50
6 WAKING UP IN RENO - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Metro East 682-8193; 682-8199; 682-8280
Marcos hway
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SPY KIDS 3
5 WAKING UP IN RENO
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP
7 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
8 NOON AT NGAYON

Novaliches 935-3229/31
1 SPY KIDS 3
2 ITALIAN JOB
3 VIEW FROM THE TOP
4 WAKING UP IN RENO
5 FINDING NEMO
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
7 NOON AT NGAYON
8 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Malabon 288-0985 288-2575
Citisquare
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
3 SPY KIDS 3
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN

Star Mills (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
San Fernando, Pamp.
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2 FINDING NEMO
3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 ALEX AND EMMA
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Imus (046) 471-8188 (046) 875-5858
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2 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 SPY KIDS 3
5 ITALIAN JOB
6 FINDING NEMO

Sta. Rosa (049) 837-09-07
Laguna
1 ITALIAN JOB
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
4 FINDING NEMO
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Bacolod (034) 441-0458-59
1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
5 VIEW FROM THE TOP
6 DARK WATER

Iloilo (033) 336-8070/78
1 THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
2 THE IN-LAWS
3 FINDING NEMO
4 SNAKE LADY
5 NENA INOSENTE
6 VIEW FROM THE TOP

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Dreams coming...

From page C4

Slip-ons. "My daughter and I have exactly the same style. We wear them when we travel. They're so comfy.

"These strappy sandals make you look really sexy. I've had these for about a year. I match them with a nice pair of jeans, or sometimes, shorts."

Bags. "I bought this Burberry backpack six months ago. I use it a lot when I travel.

"This evening bag is memorable because this is one of my mom's. She bought this in India when I was about two years old. It has semi-precious stones. My sisters were so jealous when our mom gave me this. *Matagal kong niligawan 'yan bago niya ibinigay.*

"I like this purse because my mom had exactly the same one when I was a little girl. Of all places, I found one in Baclaran. I was actually looking for baskets for my flower shop when I spotted this. I think it was P200. It reminded me so much of my childhood that I had to get it. I used it in an awards night and everybody thought it was gorgeous."

Belts. "The most commonly used belts are black and brown. But I got this particular belt from a supplier.

"This is a J Lo copy. She wore one like this in one of her music videos. The last time I wore this was on one of the morning shows on TV."

DID YOU KNOW...

In last Saturday's 50th year homecoming at ABS-CBN, former talent **Eddie Ilarde**, also an ex-senator, met current talent **Willie Revillame** of "Masayang Tanghali Bayan." Willie, who was suspended from the show for weeks for vulgarity, asked Eddie in Filipino, "Were you also suspended in your days?"

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KEKA
Ali 2	NOON AT NGAYON
Ali 3	SPY KIDS 3
Ali 4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
Ali 5	ITALIAN JOB
Ali 6	FINDING NEMO
Ali 7	LXG

ARANETA COLISEUM	
SEPT 1	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 3	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
SEPT 4	UAAP GAMES : ADMU VS. UST
SEPT 6	UAAP CHEERING COMPETITION
SEPT 11	UAAP GAMES: UST VS. UE
SEPT 13	UAAP GAMES: ADMU VS. DLSU
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	NENA INOCENTE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	NENA INOCENTE
B	SNAKE LADY
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	NENA INOCENTE
CINEMA-3	LXG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-6	ALEX & EMMA
CINEMA-7	KEKA
CINEMA-8	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ITALIAN JOB
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS 3D
CINEMA-12	WAKING UP IN RENO
CINEMA-14	FINDING NEMO
CINEMA-15	[illegible]

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

(LAS PINAS)	LXG
CINEMA-1	NOON AT NGAYON
CINEMA-2	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-4	MOTE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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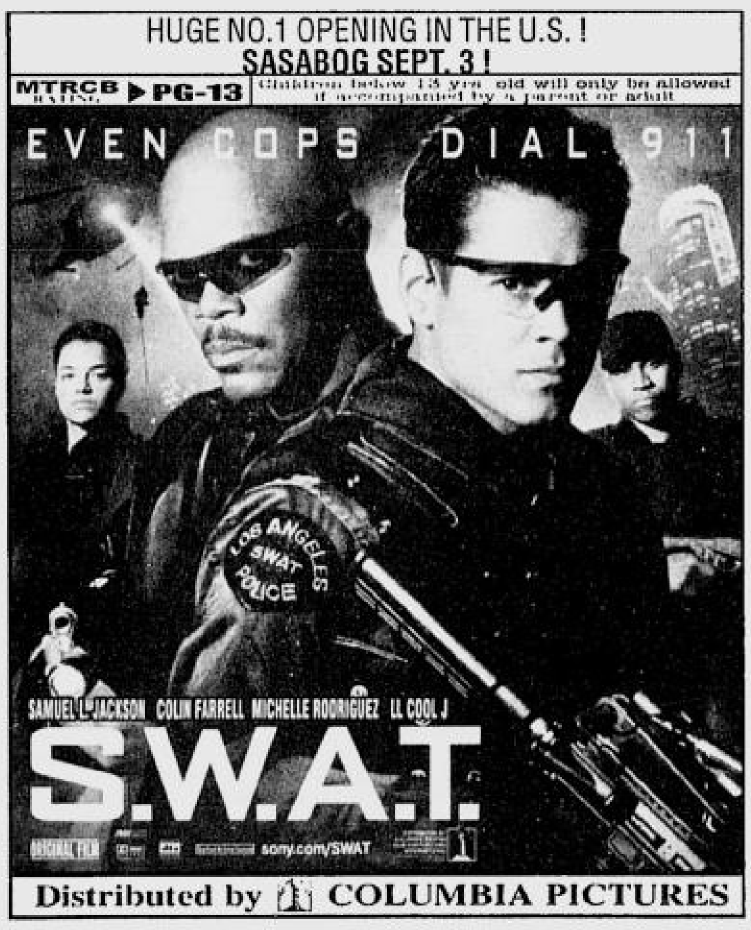
"GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AIMED RIGHT AT THE KID IN EVERY ONE OF US!"
CLAY SMITH, ACCESS HOLLYWOOD
DEPP RUSH BLOOM KNIGHTLEY
PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL
pirates.movies.com
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
P13
CINEMA 2
SPY KIDS 3D
10:50, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
GP
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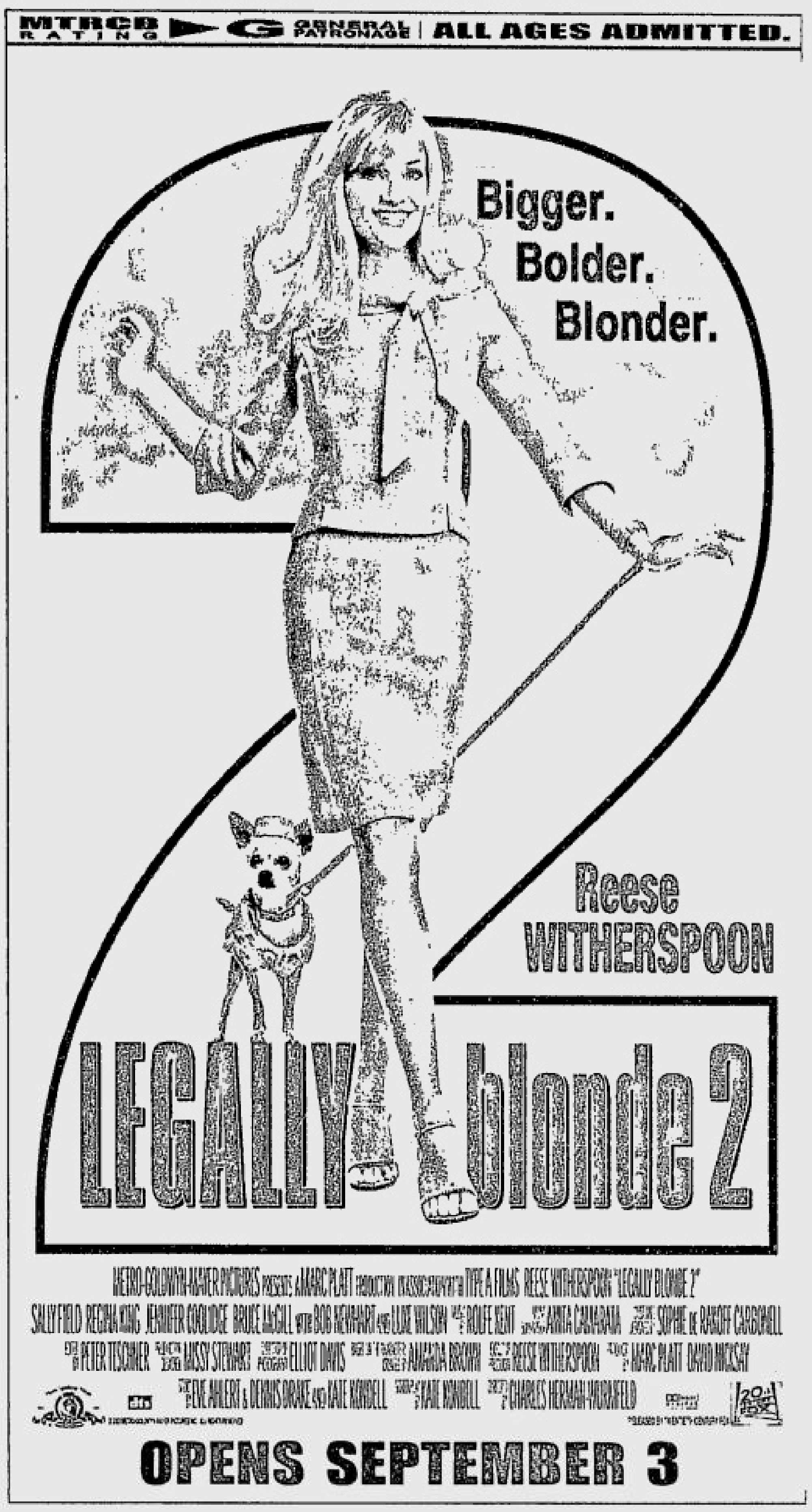
POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG13 12:30, 3:20, 6:15, 9:10
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN PG13 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10
SPY KIDS 3D GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
ITALIAN JOB R13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
A VIEW FROM TOP PG13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
WAKING UP IN RENO PG13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.



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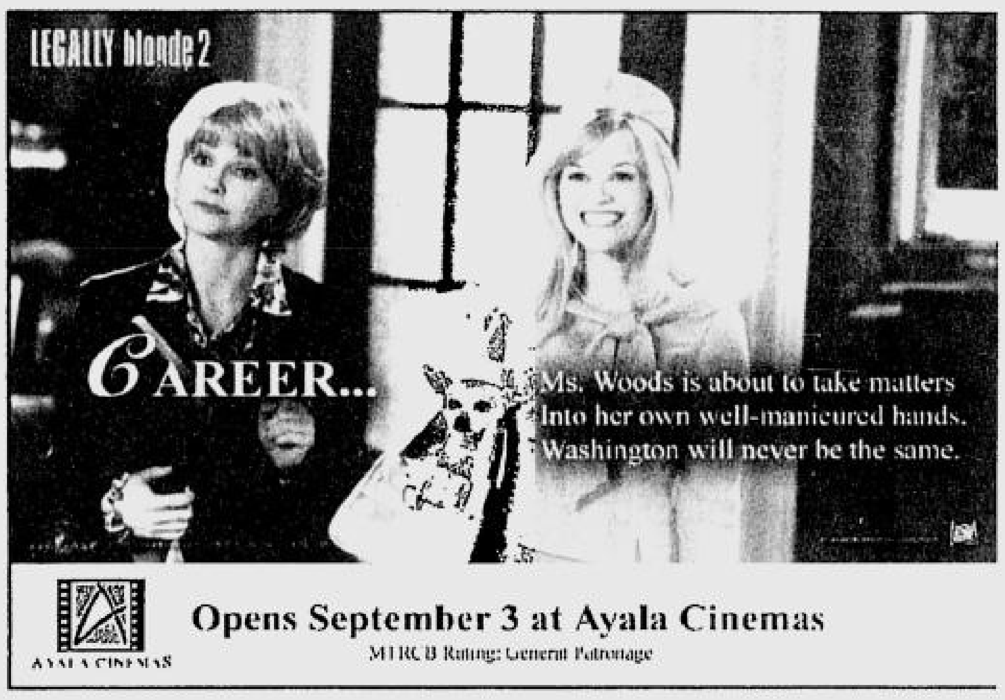
EVE AHLERT & DENNIS DRAKE AND KATE KONDELL KATE KONDELL CHARLES HERMAN-WURMFELD
OPENS SEPTEMBER 3



LEGALLY blonde 2
CAREER...
Ms. Woods is about to take matters into her own well-manicured hands. Washington will never be the same.
AYALA CINEMAS
Opens September 3 at Ayala Cinemas
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

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GREENBELT 3
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AYALA CENTER

Kuh, Zsa Zsa a US hit

"I CAN'T believe it! After 20 years, they still sound the same. Their voices are still flawless!"

So exclaimed an excited fan after watching Kuh Ledesma and Zsa Zsa Padilla perform during their successful "Diva 2 Diva" US tour.

The US tour was an offshoot of their two-night "Diva 2 Diva" concert at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) last December. The tour, which kicked off last June 14, took the two stars to LA, Washington DC, Chicago and Reno, and winded up on July 11 in San Diego.

Typical of the audience reactions during the tour were the screams of the crowd when Kuh sang her signature hit "Ako ay Pilipino" and changed the last words to "Ang Pilipino ay tayo" (from "Ang Pilipino ay ako"), and when Kuh and Zsa Zsa did a duet of "Only Hope" and Zsa Zsa sang her own signature song, "Hiram."

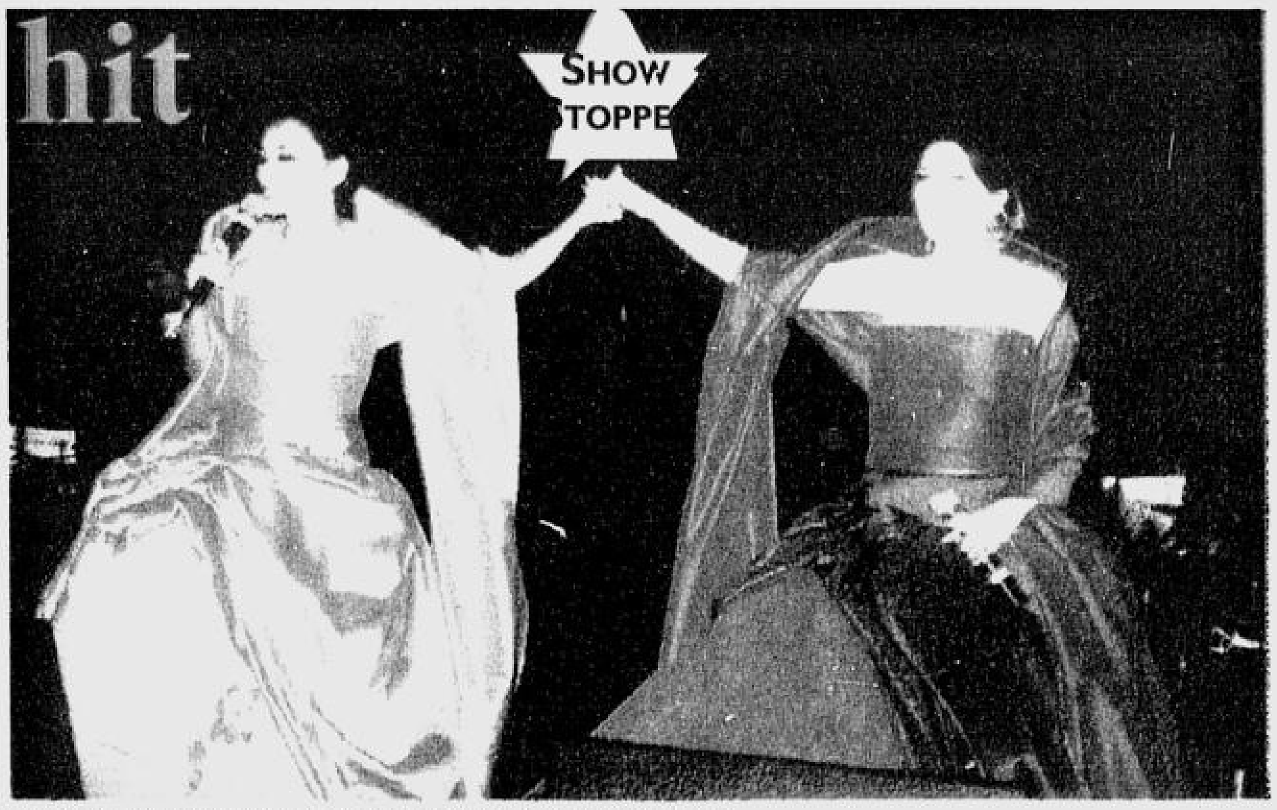
Also drawing raves were the costumes and accessories by Edwin Uy, including Victorian-inspired ball gowns, wigs and jeweled fans, which later gave way to tight-fitting tops and cigarette pants in the "Vogue" number.

Plans are being completed to bring "Diva 2 Diva" to other US cities in November.

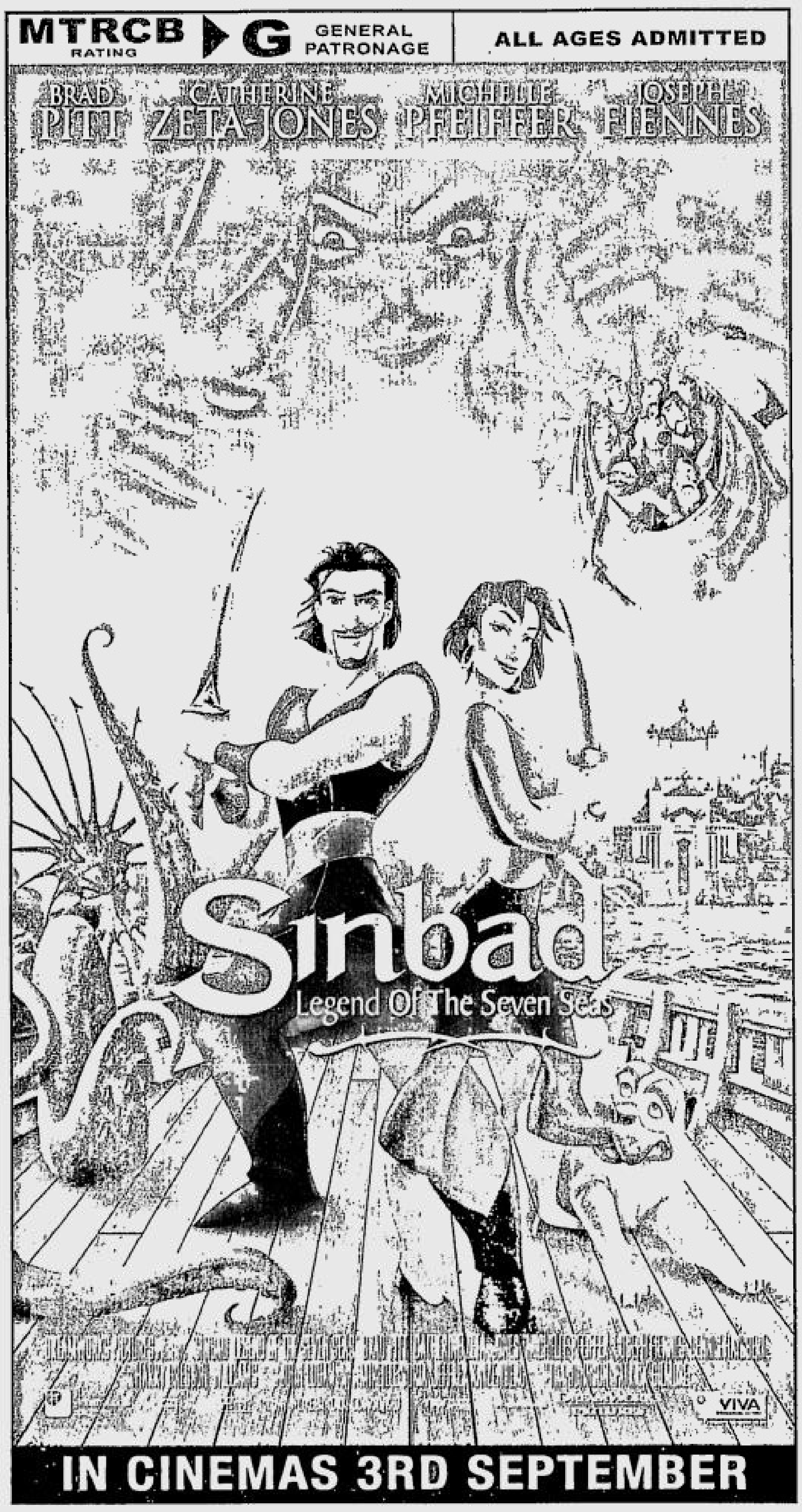
Viva Records will soon release a "Diva 2 Diva" studio album of songs from the concert.

The album will also mark Zsa Zsa's 20th anniversary in the business.

In September, Kuh will have the soft opening of her new Republic, whose grand opening will be in October.



DIVAS Ledesma and Padilla in their scene-stealing Edwin Uy gowns.



Hitmakers Ogie, Ariel in Lea's show

OGIE Alcasid and Ariel Rivera are the special guests of Lea Salonga in her "Songs From Home" concert at the PICC on Sept. 12 and 13.

"Songs From Home" will feature the best Filipino songs in the past decades.

Ariel has gold record awards for his albums "Aawitin Ko Na Lang," "Getting to Know," and "Paskong Walang Katulad," and platinum award for "Simple Lang," and "Photographs." On television, he is a mainstay in the telenovela "Narito ang Puso Ko" on GMA 7.

Ariel was also a Manila Film Festival best supporting actor for his performance in "Bakit Labis Kitang Mahal," and a TV best actor for "Parola" in GMA 7's Bahaghari Awards.

Ogie is one of the country's most brilliant and most prolific songwriters, whose songs have been recorded by many other artists. He is marking his 15 years in show biz with an Araneta Coliseum show on Oct. 10.

"Songs from Home," presented by Bayo, is directed by Bobby Garcia. Musical director is Gerard Salonga who will be conducting the 50-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tickets for P3,000, P2,500, P1,200, P900 and P600 are available at National Bookstore Ticketworld, 891-5610.

The producer is Lyncor Inc.

Ronnie's 'creations' in showdown

SHOW TIME

HOW will Lani Misalucha, known as "Asia's Nightingale," fare against Regine Velasquez, called "Asia's Songbird"?

Will the two singers, who are Ronnie Henares' greatest creations, steal the thunder from each other in a showdown of vocal prowess and stage presence?

Find out when Wilbros. Entertainment mounts "Lani Misalucha in Symphony," featuring Lani with Regine as her special second-night guest.

The concert is on Sept. 5 and 6, 8:30 p.m., at the PICC Plenary Hall. Lani's other guests are Jaya and acoustic singer Paolo Santos on Sept. 5, and Jed Maddela on Sept. 6.

Will Lani and Regine spill the secrets of their staying power? Or will they concentrate on outdoing each other in their singing and their gowns?

Lani alone will have three costume changes, courtesy of Rajo Laurel, Maxi Cinco and Arielle Agasang.

Directing them is Ida Henares, who used to manage Regine, with husband Ronnie, and who now handles Lani and the other Primeline Inc. talents.

Musical director and conductor Louie Ocampo has created 11 original songs, on top of the concert's repertoire.

For the first time, Lani will be backed by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, while award-winning Douglas Nierras will stage eyepopping production numbers as choreographer.

The show is sponsored by Rado of Switzerland at Montre and Livoncel (Multivitamins + Minerals), in association with Eva Air, Westin Philippine Plaza, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin and Tapa King, with Flavours of China, Athena, Moissanite, Gerry Sunga Jewelry, Magic 89.9, Joey 92.3, Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT, Jam 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, RJ 100 and 105.1 Crossover.

Tickets are available at Wilbros Entertainment, 374-2222 and 374-9999, and National Bookstore Ticketworld, 801-5610.

24 hours, 7 days a week of 93.9 I FM

COOL, hip, in tune with today's generation of listeners, they are the new voices ruling the FM block 24/7, and they are all on I FM 93.9.

Maning starts the day early and light with "Halo-Halo," 4-6 a.m., where he serves hits with laughs on the side.

Ivan's "Umaga Na," 6-9 a.m., takes you through the morning rush. Then it's Raymund Ryan's "You and I," 9-11 a.m., followed by the irrepressible Ivan with "I Tanghali Na," 11- 1 p.m.

Bernie keeps it low and relaxed with "You and I," 1-3 p.m., with the witty Jupiter picking up the pace with "Ice Breaker," 3-6 p.m. Captain I takes control with "I Way 939," 6-9 p.m. Kaye then eases you into the evening's rhythm with "You and I," 9 p.m. to midnight).

At the helm of all these is Fred Murphy Davis, whose innovative approach has helped revolutionized the local FM radio landscape. The team also includes area managers Vince Ibrado and Vince Jaen, and creative director Van Omega.

Johnny come quirky

From page C8

thing was that it was like a personal attack: "How dare Johnny Depp write, direct, act in a movie? God almighty, does he think he has a brain?"

Your co-star in "Pirates," Orlando Bloom, is quite the poster boy these days, not unlike how you were when you started out. Do you give him any advice?

I'm really no one to be giving advice. I've stepped on s--t more than most people. And on purpose—knowingly, willingly. So I don't know that I'm really anyone to be giving advice. But because of how it started out for me early on, how they wanted to make me and how they tried to present me to the public, (it) was such an uncomfortable skin to be in, to be forced to be in, that I fought and I fought and I fought. It was a hard battle, a long battle, and (it's) still kind of going to some degree. Even at the ripe old age of 40.

When Orlando comes to me and says, "Hey man, they want me to be this and they want me to do that," I essentially just tell him, "F--- 'em. Just do what you want. Just do what you need to do for you. Don't ever get to a place where you have regrets. Don't regret doing something for somebody. Do what you need to do for yourself."

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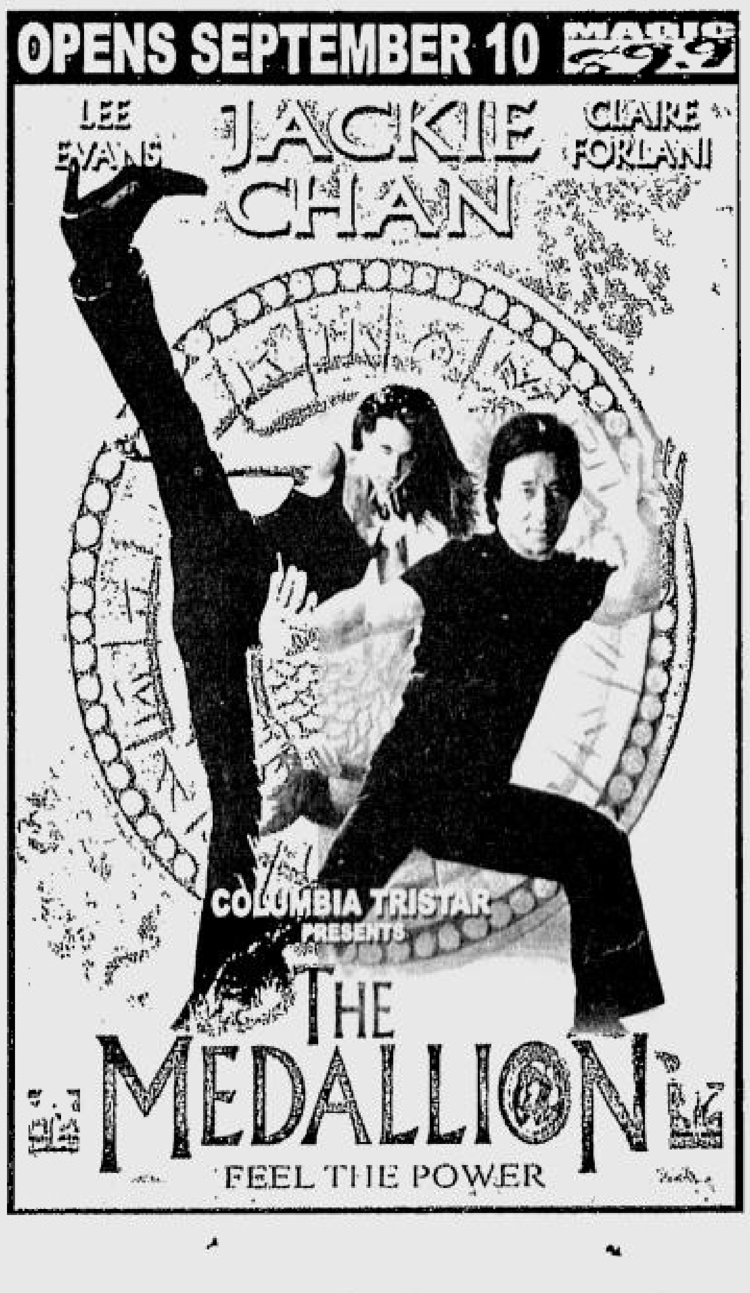


Pete Roa undergoes...

From page C1

which paralyzed the left half of his body.

Boots said doctors had to wait for seven days to operate on her husband because Pete had to stop taking all medications for his stroke and diabetes to prevent any contraindications.

"He was glad to have finally been operated on," she said on the phone. "He's in his room right now. He's still groggy, though."

"His first few words had been about mahjong," she added.

Boots said doctors advised Pete to stay in the hospital for a week to recuperate. Their children Joey and sportscaster Chiqui Roa-Puno are taking turns watching over him, she added.

"He would sure miss playing mahjong with his friends for another week," said Boots. "He would always joke that the game is his most effective therapy."

Boots' father, former matinee idol Oscar Moreno, died last July 19 from kidney complications. He was 82.

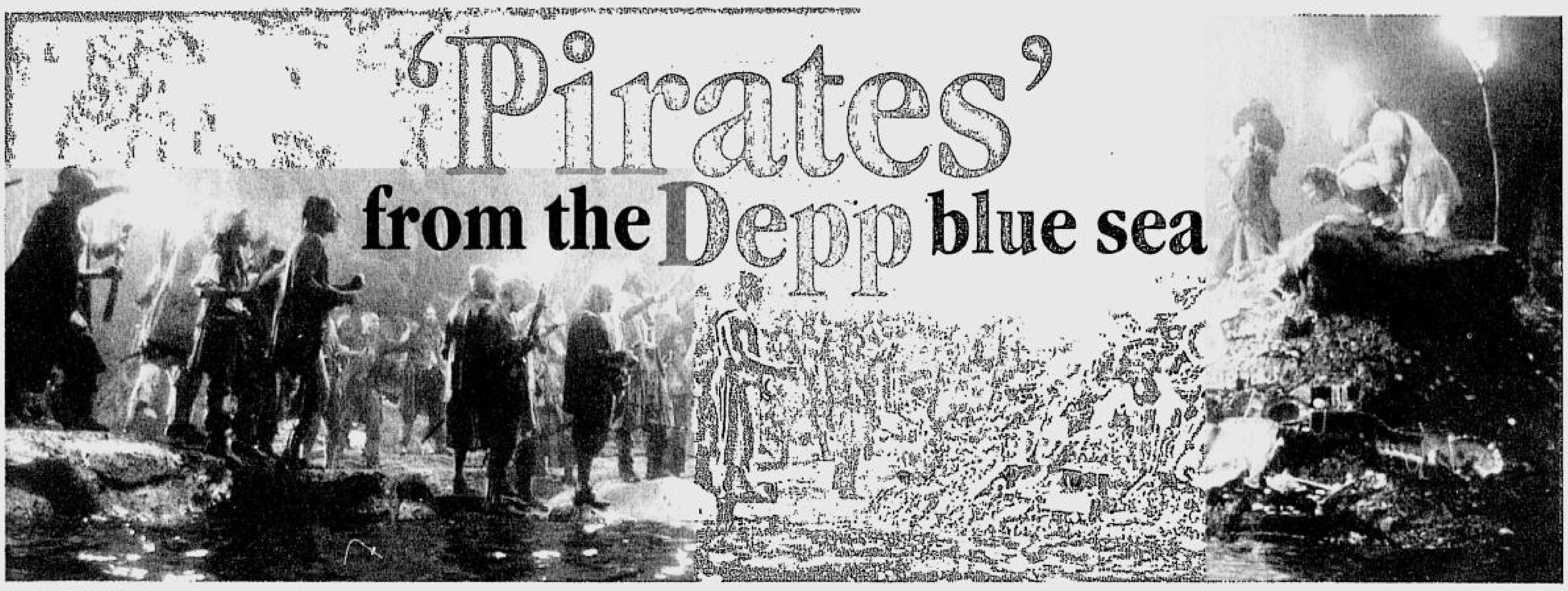
"I was telling Pete that he had been a good boy," Boots joked. "I told him, *'huwag ka makisabay kay papa.'* He waited a month after our dad was buried before he had his accident."

Because of the accident, the couple would have to postpone their Sept. 9 trip to the United States to visit their other children, Leah and Benjamin.

"Pete would be wheelchair-bound for the rest of the year," said Boots. "He would have to add more sessions to his twice-a-week sessions with his physical therapist."

ENTERTAINMENT

'Pirates' from the Depp blue sea



KID-FRIENDLY. The movie is a rarity in that it has neither gore nor sex.

By Ruel S. De Vera

IT'S NOT entirely surprising that Walt Disney Pictures' "The Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" is based on a Disney theme park ride. Like that theme park attraction, "Pirates" is a fast-paced ride that won't give you nightmares. That's either a good or a bad thing, depending on how you approach "Pirates."

As a purposefully kid-friendly movie, there's neither gore nor sex here, a rarity for a pirate movie—or a zombie movie, for that matter.

But all the usual pirates trimmings are here, down to the noisy parrot. An unusual choice for director Gore Verbinski (who had helmed the US adaptation of "The Ring"), "Pirates" is the first lead vehicle for "Lord of the Rings" heartthrob Orlando Bloom, who plays handsome blacksmith Will Turner. Found adrift at sea as a young boy, Turner is rescued by Elizabeth Swann, the governor's daughter (played by feisty Keira Knightley from "Bend It Like Beckham"). Years later, the buccaneers from the ship The Black Pearl sail into town and kidnap Elizabeth. Incensed by the navy's refusal to go after her, Turner must defy the British navy to rescue his beloved Elizabeth.

Just one problem: Those pirates are actually the living dead. Cursed due to a horde of stolen Aztec gold, the Black Pearl's crew, skippered by Captain Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush), are trying to lift the curse, ostensibly by sacrificing Elizabeth's life.

Sterilized scenes

Aside from hijacking a warship, Turner must work with the enigmatic pirate Captain Jack Sparrow (Johhny Depp) to track down the Pearl. Sparrow is, after all, the former skipper of the Pearl before Barbossa and the mutinous crew left him marooned on a desert island.

Additionally, there is more to Will than it first seems, as Elizabeth has kept something of Will's from that day they came across one another, a mysterious golden medallion. Will this combination of the naive Turner and the seemingly disoriented Sparrow be enough to save the day? Do pirates say "arrr"?

An uneven concoction that seems to be cementing the exact same conventions it's making fun of, the PG-13 "Pirates" at times seems equal parts comedy as it does swashbuckling action. In sterilizing the scenes, Verbinski produces what is essentially Treasure Island Lite, more pirates for half the guilt.

If the plot seems as silly as the elongated title, one has to remember, it's a pirate movie. How serious can it be?

The action scenes are loud and furious, the actors are constantly scurrying about for cover and the movie seems to have no genuine dramatic center. Hmm. Yes, this is another Jerry Bruckheimer movie, albeit a somewhat watered down Bruckheimer experience. Probably because you can't really blow up too many things when you're out at sea, but he certainly tries his best.

Telegenic, bloodless

All that makes it a very accessible and safe movie for younger viewers. "Pirates" is distraction with more destruction than drama, displaying a greater focus on big fight scenes rather than character development. Though they're supposed to reveal their true forms in the moonlight, what "Pirates" sets sail with is a telegenic if bloodless view of the undead, not too different from the dancing corpses in Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video. It's more funny than frightening.

Ever the pretty boy, Bloom does a passable job as the movie's pony-tailed hero, swinging all over the joint and swinging swords with aplomb. The comely Knightley, stuck in a much more limiting role than the athletic firebrand she played in "Beckham," seems sincerely suffocated by her role of corset-clad damsel-in-distress. Thoroughly unrecognizable as the governor is Jonathan Pryce. But "Pirates" is really not about them.

And though Rush gives his best effort, with an accent gone overboard and a wardrobe leased from Captain Hook, "Pirates" is stolen from under his feet almost immediately by Depp, chewing up the scenery with both self-awareness and gusto.

Joy to watch

While the two actors, known for their capacity to devour the screen, engage in an overacting battle to the death, Depp wins out. Depp, known for his eccentric movie roles and his immense talent, may be an unusual choice for fare as mainstream as this, but his ambiguous and broad portrayal of Sparrow is also the movie's best asset, a visceral joy to watch amid the movie's manicured backdrop.

So what if it is a rather silly role? Now and then, it's just nice to watch a good actor cut loose.

By kowtowing to the younger audience, Verbinski tempers any kind of horrific edge from "Pirates," instead constructing a pirate movie for modern kids and teenagers. It achieves a degree of substance with Depp's cutlass-rattling performance, but for the most part, the child-safe "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" has more to do with XBox games than Robert Louis Stevenson, a nattily dressed-up carnival ride rather than a seven seas classic.

Johnny come quirky

ROCK N' ROLL pirate Sparrow is in the same vein as the quirky, endearing characters the actor has played throughout his career.

POSTER BOYS then, Depp, and now, Bloom

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

JOHNNY DEPP shows up at an interview wearing the gold teeth caps he used for his role as a pirate. That's par for the course for an actor who has been anything but conventional or predictable. And that career approach has turned out to be, well, golden.

Since he burst into the scene in 1987 as an undercover cop on the hit TV show "21 Jump Street," Depp has made his mark playing oddball characters that downplayed his chiseled, matinee-idol good looks. His performances in such films as "Cry-Baby," "Edward Scissorhands," and "Ed Wood" cemented his reputation as a Hollywood maverick who had no intention of giving Tom Cruise a run for his toothy (white) grin.

Five years ago, Depp moved to the most un-Hollywood of places, France, where he lives with his wife, singer Vanessa Paradis, and their two children.

Now, with a starring role in "Pirates of the Caribbean," Depp has done something so unpredictably Depp-ish you have to marvel at the irony of it all: He's done a big, commercial blockbuster, based on a Disney theme-park ride, of all things. The film was produced by Jerry Bruckheimer of "Armageddon" and "Pearl Harbor" fame (or infamy, depending on who you ask).

If anything, the move has proven to be shrewd. "Pirates" is now the biggest hit of Depp's career. Since it opened in the US last month, the movie has grossed more than $240 million and is well on its way to becoming one of 2003's top grossers.

More important, and surprising, is that Depp has survived his excursion through popcorn hitsville with his credibility intact. The movie has been embraced by critics, who've singled out Depp's performance as rock n' roll pirate Jack Sparrow as the film's high point. Nuanced, off-kilter and witty, Depp's turn in "Pirates" is, ultimately, in the same vein as the countless quirky and endearing characters he's played throughout his career.

The INQUIRER caught up with Depp in L.A. in June. Dressed in a gray-and-white-striped vest, a long-sleeved blue shirt and dark jeans torn at one knee, the 40-year-old looked every inch the kooky nonconformist. His wispy hair, dyed blonde, peered out of a black ski cap. A bracelet of multicolored plastic hearts dangled from one wrist; it looked like he stole it from one of his kids.

Depp at one point during the interview pulled out Bali Shag tobacco, rolled his own cigarette and proceeded to smoke it. Every time he smiled, his gold teeth glimmered.

So here's the question every swashbuckling kid in us wants to know: How was it like to play a pirate?

It was pretty incredible, the amount of fun. There were moments when we looked at one another and said, "Man, can you believe we actually get to do this? That this is our job?" Yeah, there were moments like that.

You're famous for playing quirky characters in small films such as "Ed Wood," "Cry-Baby" and "Benny & Joon." And yet here you are, headlining a major Hollywood summer movie produced by blockbuster whiz Jerry Bruckheimer and released by Disney. What made you decide to do "Pirates"?

In terms of choosing this material, I just loved the character. I loved the script. I thought it could be something really, really good. The fact that it was Disney and Bruckheimer and all that stuff—that was just kind of, OK, fine.

Dueling with swords, though, can get a bit hair-raising. Any close calls while filming with co-stars Orlando Bloom and Geoffrey Rush?

I just took a couple of hits here and there from a sword in a sword fight with Orlando. Once during rehearsal, Geoffrey—not on purpose, I think—tried to ... [chooses his words carefully] skewer my groin area. It was a little too close for comfort. It was during rehearsal. I wish we'd had it on film.

You've said that you based this character on Rolling Stones rocker Keith Richards. How did you come up such a unique idea, a rock n' roll pirate?

You read a lot about pirates, and I thought it had to be more than just going out and ripping people off and killing and purging and plundering. I thought these guys also must have been—to some degree—about the myth. They all wanted to leave their mark. Well, these guys were like basically the rock n' roll stars of the 18th century.

So I began with that. Then I just thought, Who's the greatest rock n' roll star, the coolest rock n' roll star in the history of rock n' roll? To me, it's Keith Richards, hands down, in terms of talent, in terms of charisma, in terms of attack and approach, way of life. And so I kind of used memories of Keith as inspirations. He has a certain grace, a certain elegance, a wit, wisdom about him that I kind of thought would be very useful.

You were once known for being the hard-partying type. Now, you're a father of two living a rather low-key family life. How has parenthood affected your career and the choices you now make?

I honestly think that the choices that I have made started early on—for my kids, before they'd ever arrived. Even before I got off the show ["21 Jump Street"], starting out with "Cry-Baby" and "Edward Scissorhands" and "Arizona Dream," I started making choices that I thought I could be proud of someday. And that maybe my kids could be proud of someday.

In 1997, you told Vanity Fair that you weren't quite sure if movies could be considered art because there was so much money involved. Is this still true for you today?

I think that there are guys out there who approach their films in the absolute purest sense. But to get the films made, we all have to go to someone and say, "Can I have your wallet now? I need money to put into this thing." Cinema can definitely come close to art. The problem, for me, is that somebody puts money into [it]. And when that person puts money into it, they're not throwing the money away just because they love the project. They're expecting returns on the money, at least to get it back or triple it, quadruple it, whatever. And that's where it starts to get icky for me.

How about directing a movie again? Critics weren't too kind to your first effort, "The Brave," when it was screened in Cannes in 1997.

I'd love to direct something again. If I had the chance to do it again, I would change a couple of things. I wouldn't have cast myself in it. When I did "The Brave," I was sort of forced to cast myself in it because of the amount of (money) involved to make the film.

Do you remember how harsh the critics were to the film?

Oh, they split me open, filleted me and all that stuff. The odd

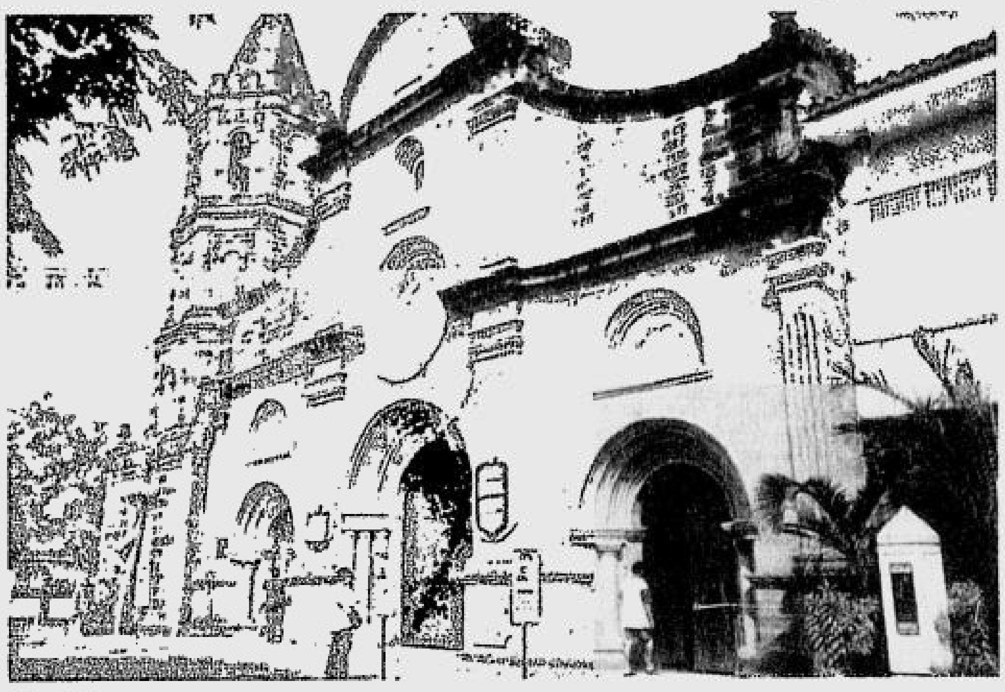
JOHNNY/C7

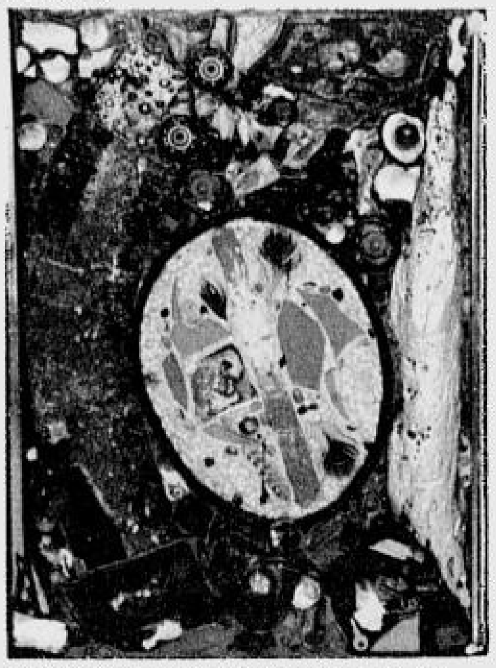
LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito Zulueta**

Gising na!
Coffy





"EVENING Illumination," by Nena Saguil, at Ateneo

5 museums 'zero in' on Pinoy skin and 'pamana'

A PROJECT of a consortium of museums—Ayala, Lopez, and Ateneo—the project "Zero-In" continues to bring together cultural institutions toward the ideal of cooperation and peer collegiality. This year, Museo Pambata joins as a partner.

This year's exhibition covers a considerable scope of cultural interests that gives a serious, involved and engrossing understanding of the skin surface essence of being a Filipino—in the past, present and the future.

The Lopez Memorial Museum's "Essence and Sympathies," which opens today, uses the museum's collection as point of inspiration toward an understanding of Philippine art and its spirit, in order to flesh out man's global quest for identity, roots and nation.

It is a showcase of expatriate Filipino artists who left to find work or to study with the masters. In exile, their memories of home appear in landscapes which are not, in the words of one artist, "transliteration of reality" but abstractions, fantasy or romanticized versions.

The exhibit features works of 19th-century Philippine masters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, as well as Pacita Abad, Fedrico Alcuaz, Alfonso Ossorio, Leon Pacunayen, Juvenal Sanso, Macario Vitalis and Fernando Zobel.

Ayala Museum's "Paletada: Skin of the Church," which opens on Sept. 3, takes us into the depths of colonial history by searching the surface of the structures it has left behind, structures that embody a nation's singular faith.

The Ateneo Art Gallery focuses on "Nena Saguil: Landscapes and Inscapes," which opens on Sept. 19. Saguil was a solitary female artist who, as a recluse in a Paris flat, produced a body of work that gave a glimpse of a universe she created within and about herself.

Museo Pambata's "Skinteractives," which opens on Sept. 24, counterpoints each exhibition with clever interventions meant to gain an intensive understanding and experience of each exhibition.

Cultural map

Meanwhile, the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences, the country's oldest museum, will open "Pamana: Memory, Identity and Continuity" on Sept. 4 at 10 a.m. at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex of UST.

"Pamana" is an exciting exhibit on the cultural mapping of the

5 EXHIBITS/ D4

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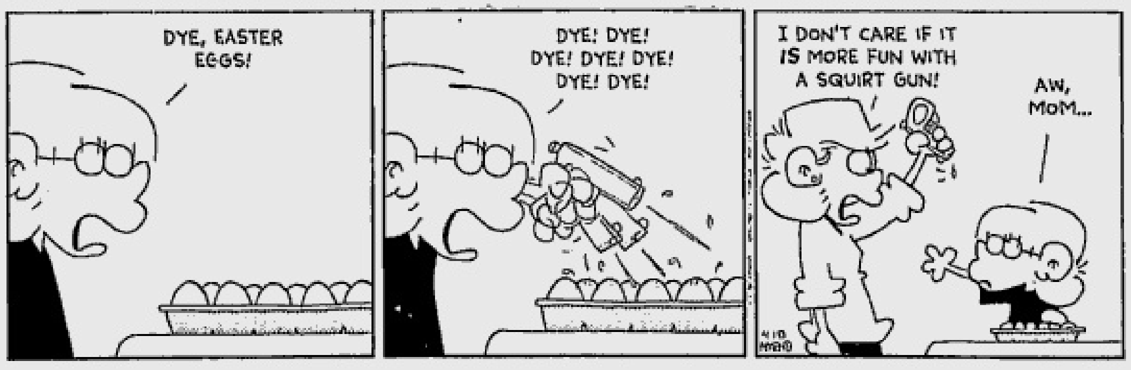
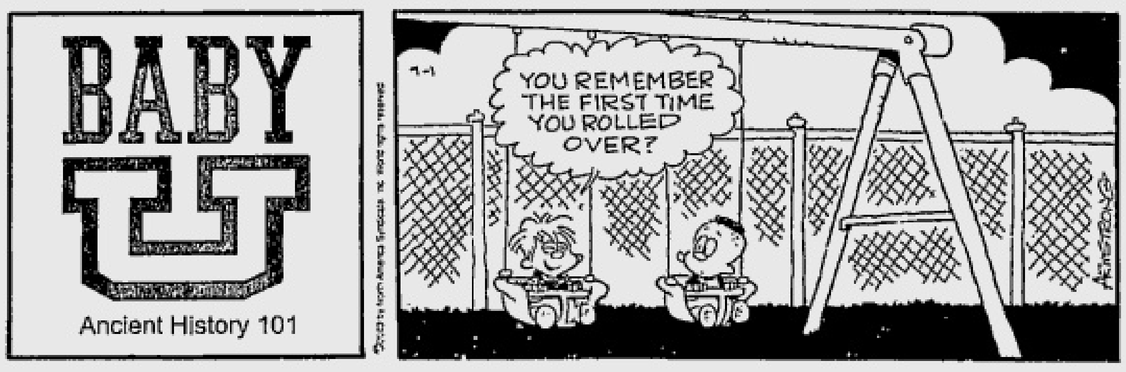
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DYE, EASTER EGGS!
DYE! DYE! DYE! DYE! DYE! DYE! DYE!
I DON'T CARE IF IT IS MORE FUN WITH A SQUIRT GUN!
AW, MOM...

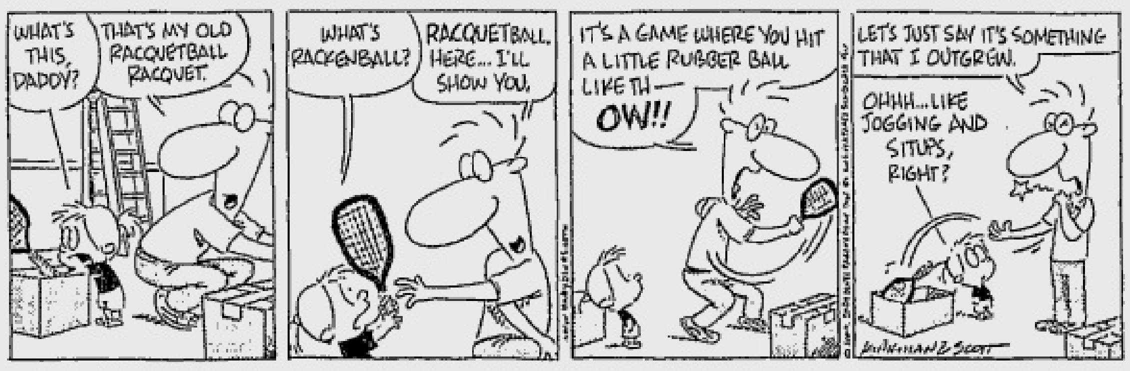
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BABY U
Ancient History 101
YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU ROLLED OVER?
ARMSTRONG

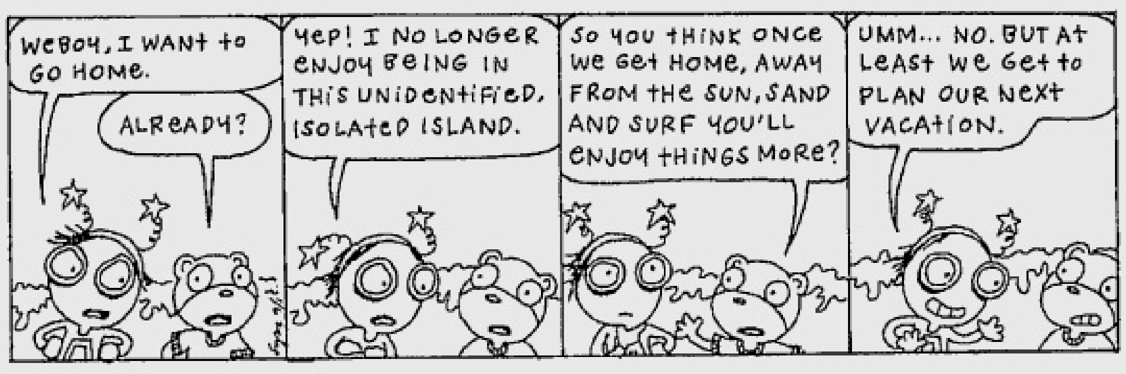
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S THIS, DADDY?
THAT'S MY OLD RACQUETBALL RACQUET.
WHAT'S RACKENBALL?
RACQUETBALL. HERE... I'LL SHOW YOU.
IT'S A GAME WHERE YOU HIT A LITTLE RUBBER BALL LIKE TH—
OW!!
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S SOMETHING THAT I OUTGREW.
OHHH... LIKE JOGGING AND SITUPS, RIGHT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY, I WANT TO GO HOME.
ALREADY?
YEP! I NO LONGER ENJOY BEING IN THIS UNIDENTIFIED, ISOLATED ISLAND.
SO YOU THINK ONCE WE GET HOME, AWAY FROM THE SUN, SAND AND SURF YOU'LL ENJOY THINGS MORE?
UMM... NO. BUT AT LEAST WE GET TO PLAN OUR NEXT VACATION.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are brave, fearless and passionate. You set high standards for yourself. You take your work very seriously, and you take pride in meeting your deadlines. You are highly conscientious. You often approach life in a very physical manner. You are sexy, romantic and practical. Expect a fun-loving, social year ahead.
Birthdate of: Edgar Rice Burroughs, writer; Gloria Estefan, singer; Barry Gibb, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): At this stage in your life, it's time to make a commitment to where you live. You need the security of a strong anchor in your world. You need your base of operations—something you can rely on.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): There is no question that you are looking at a change of residence or a change of jobs either this year or next. Start to think about it now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's important for you to address your value system now. You have to know what really matters to you. You don't want to be 90 years old, looking in the mirror saying, "You blew it."

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a benchmark year for you. You are entering a new sandbox. You're actually getting ready to reinvent yourself, although you don't know it yet.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the next two years, you will dismantle much of what you have worked to achieve in the past decade. It's a time of letting go and giving things up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can achieve so much now! It would be wise for you to get serious about establishing long-term goals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This stage in your life is a harvest time, where you will reap what you have sown. Let's hope you planted wisely (e.g. seeds of generosity, patience and kindness).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good time to get your ducks in a row. You are looking at a career peak a few years from now. That's why whatever you do now has important consequences.

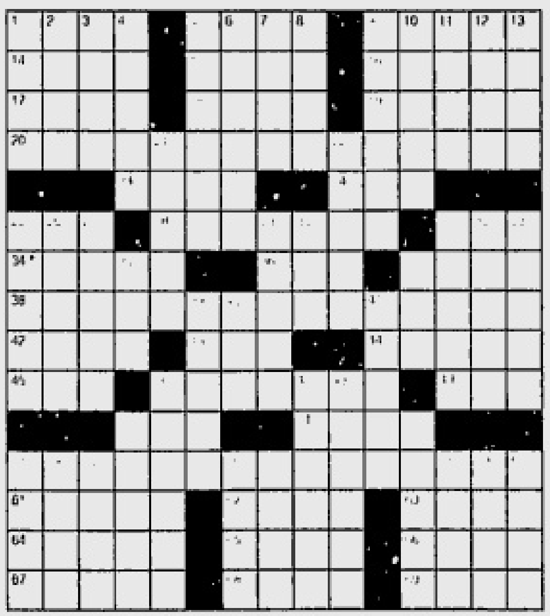
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your partner might change jobs or become self-employed. You might have to rely on yourself more than usual. You can do this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Like Cancer, this is a benchmark year. Finally, you have stepped out into the world more boldly. You are taking your power and getting recognition for your efforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have to work hard this year or next, because this is your chance to prove what you can do. Even if you feel overwhelmed, you will succeed.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are grappling with the challenge of trying to figure out what you want to be when you grow up. What makes your heart sing? Expect increased responsibilities with children.

DAILY CROSSWORD



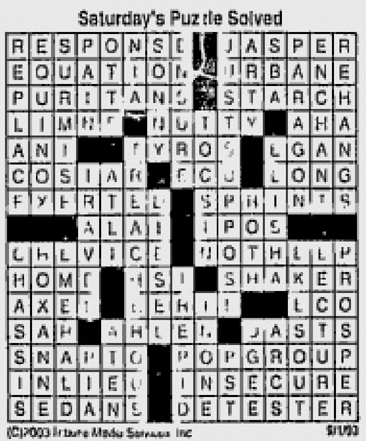
By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA

9/1/03

ACROSS
1 Kismet
5 Sign of healing
9 Map collection
14 Charles Lamb's pen name
15 __ Stanley Gardner
16 Sierra __
17 At any time
18 Fill to excess
19 Infamous Helmsley
20 Three weeks from now
23 __ sapiens
24 Brief commercials
25 Hearth residue
28 Non-Jewish
31 Little lie
34 Speculative genre, briefly
36 4-wheel drive transport
37 "Mephisto Waltz" star
38 Common September TV fare
42 Paris airport
43 Ring off.
44 __ looking at you, kid
45 "The Daughter of Time" writer
46 Satellite of Saturn
49 Hurler's stat
50 Rifle or revolver
51 In addition
53 Today, yesterday and the day before
61 Standoffish
62 French friend
63 Offshore
64 Migratory flock
65 Place to skate
66 Unit of length
67 Nail alternative
68 Units of work
69 Soap bubbles

DOWN
1 Touch
2 Edison's middle name
3 Equal scores
4 Third planet
5 Bun seed
6 Wax stick
7 Type of sax
8 Grouse
9 Make an indirect reference
10 Abounds
11 Tower
12 Comic Meara
13 Cauterize
21 Motherless calf
22 Military tribute
25 English racetrack
26 Twenty
27 Rolling, landscapewise
29 Chewy candy
30 Robert or Lance
31 Blaze of light
32 Layabout
33 Model wood
35 Picnic pest
37 Lincoln or Burrows
39 $1,000
40 Underwater shocker
41 "__ Were the Days"
46 Time to be home by
47 Manhandling
48 Glosses over
50 Silly fowl
52 Gives a thumbs-up
53 Falls behind
54 One Baldwin
55 Afrikaner
56 River through Bern
57 Norse giant
58 Jacob's twin
59 Geek
60 June honorees

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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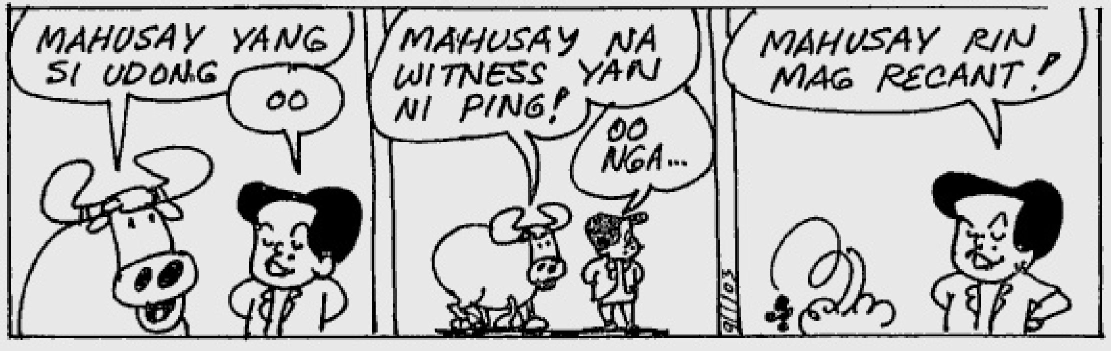
9/1/03

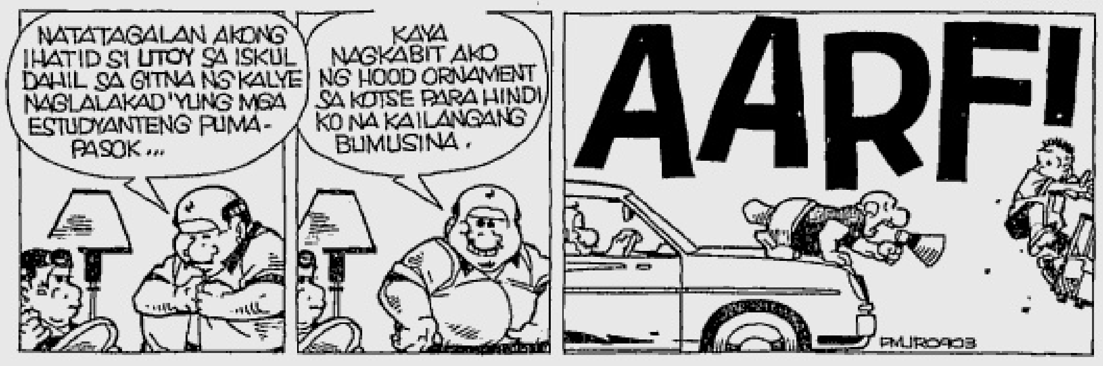
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAHUSAY YANG SI UDONG
OO
MAHUSAY NA WITNESS YAN NI PING!
OO NGA...
MAHUSAY RIN MAG RECANT!?
9/1/03

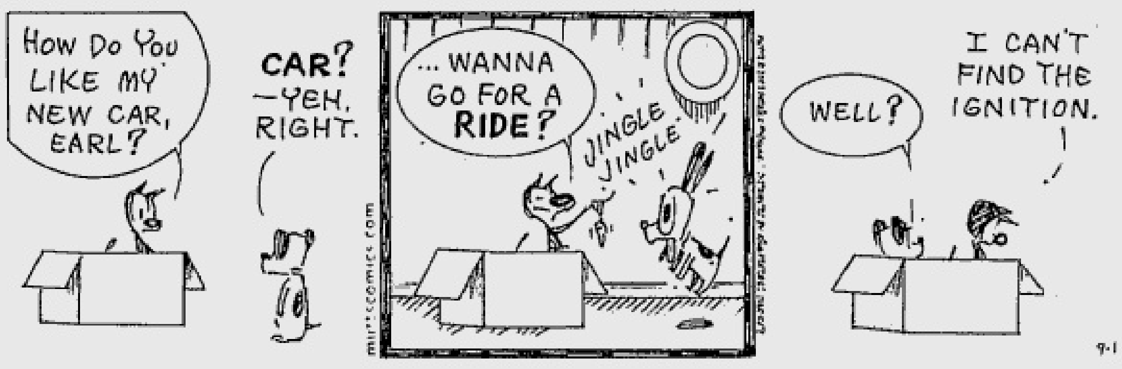
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NATATAGALAN AKONG IHATID SI UTOY SA ISKUL DAHIL SA GITNA NG KALYE NAGLALAKAD 'YUNG MGA ESTUDYANTENG PUMAPASOK...
KAYA NAGKABIT AKO NG HOOD ORNAMENT SA KOTSE PARA HINDI KO NA KAILANGANG BUMUSINA.
AARF!
PMJR0903

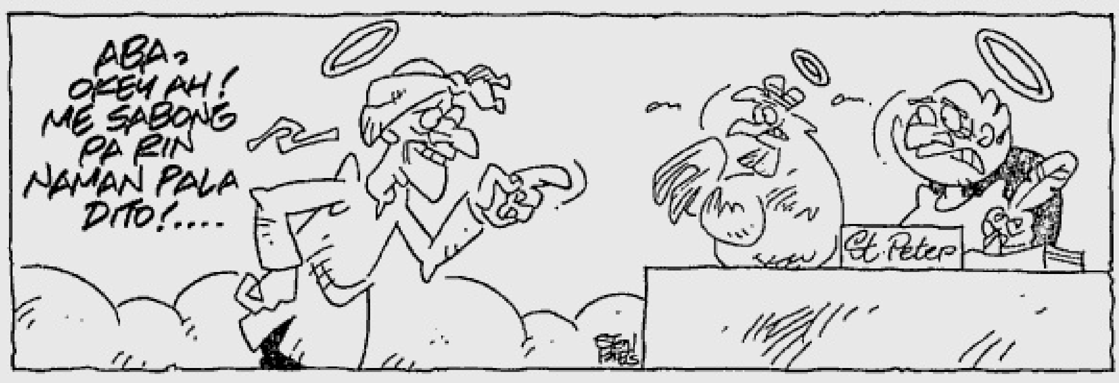
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW CAR, EARL?
CAR? —YEH. RIGHT.
... WANNA GO FOR A RIDE?
JINGLE JINGLE
WELL?
I CAN'T FIND THE IGNITION.
muttscomics.com
9-1

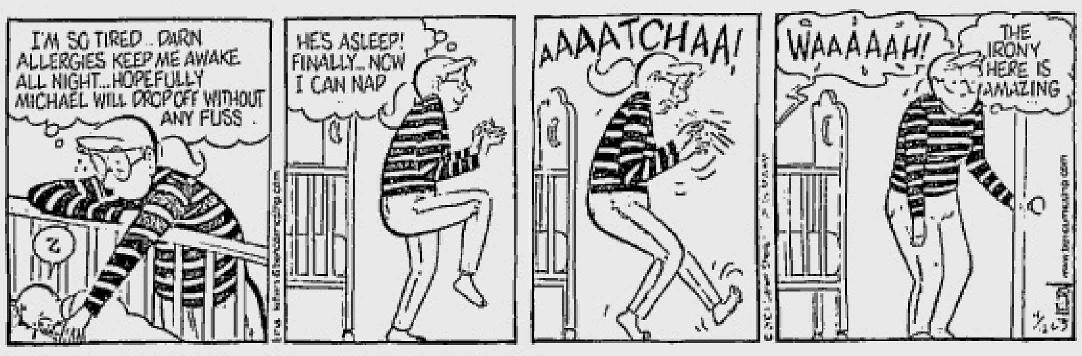
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ABA, OKEY AH! ME SABONG PA RIN NAMAN PALA DITO!....
St. Peter

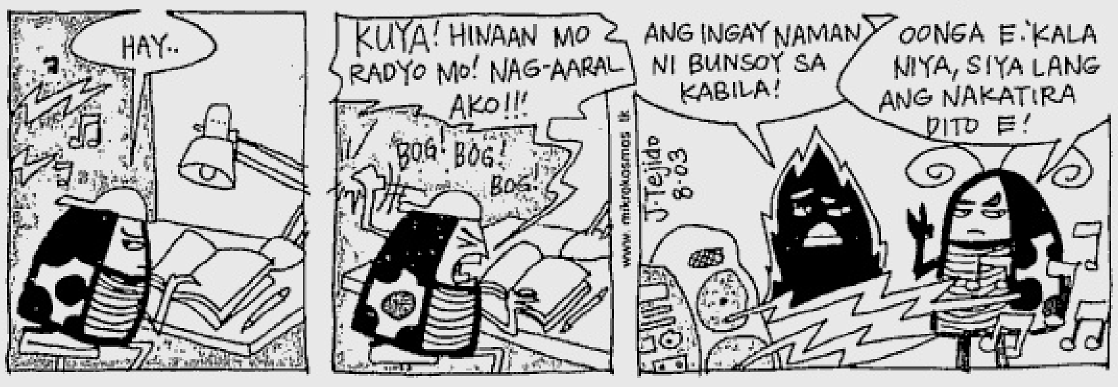
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SO TIRED.. DARN ALLERGIES KEEP ME AWAKE ALL NIGHT...HOPEFULLY MICHAEL WILL DROP OFF WITHOUT ANY FUSS.
HE'S ASLEEP! FINALLY... NOW I CAN NAP
AAAATCHAA!
WAAAAAH!
THE IRONY HERE IS AMAZING

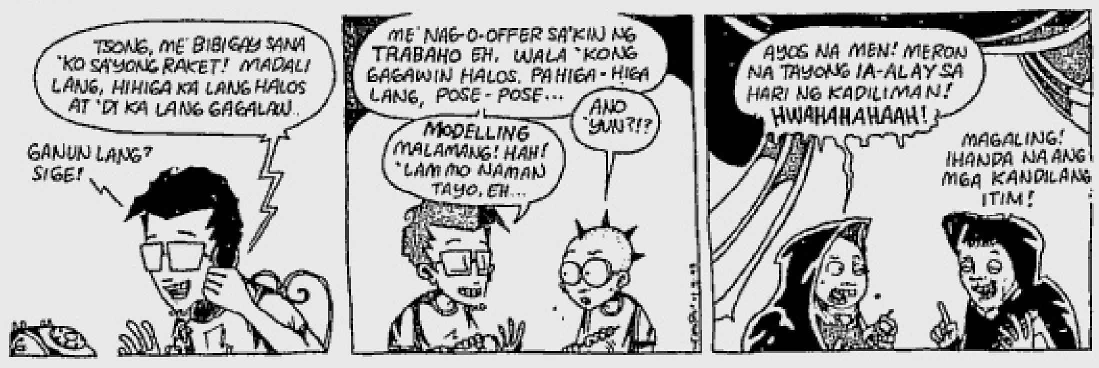
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY..
KUYA! HINAAN MO RADYO MO! NAG-AARAL AKO!!
BOG! BOG! BOG!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido 8-03
ANG INGAY NAMAN NI BUNSOY SA KABILA!
OONGA E. 'KALA NIYA, SIYA LANG ANG NAKATIRA DITO E!

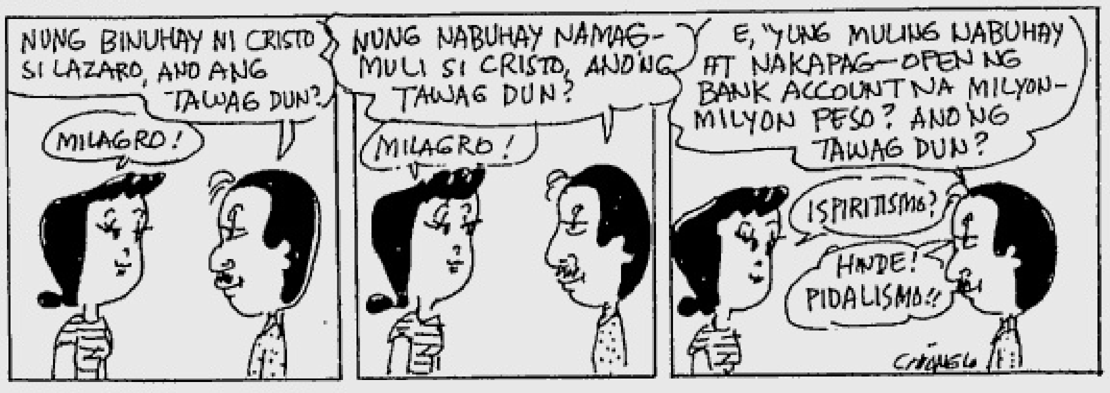
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ME' BIBIGAY SANA 'KO SA'YONG RAKET! MADALI LANG, HIHIGA KA LANG HALOS AT 'DI KA LANG GAGALAW.
GANUN LANG? SIGE!
ME' NAG-O-OFFER SA'KIN NG TRABAHO EH. WALA 'KONG GAGAWIN HALOS. PAHIGA-HIGA LANG, POSE-POSE...
ANO 'YUN?!?
MODELLING MALAMANG! HAH! 'LAM MO NAMAN TAYO, EH...
AYOS NA MEN! MERON NA TAYONG IA-ALAY SA HARI NG KADILIMAN! HWAHAHAHAAH!
MAGALING! IHANDA NA ANG MGA KANDILANG ITIM!

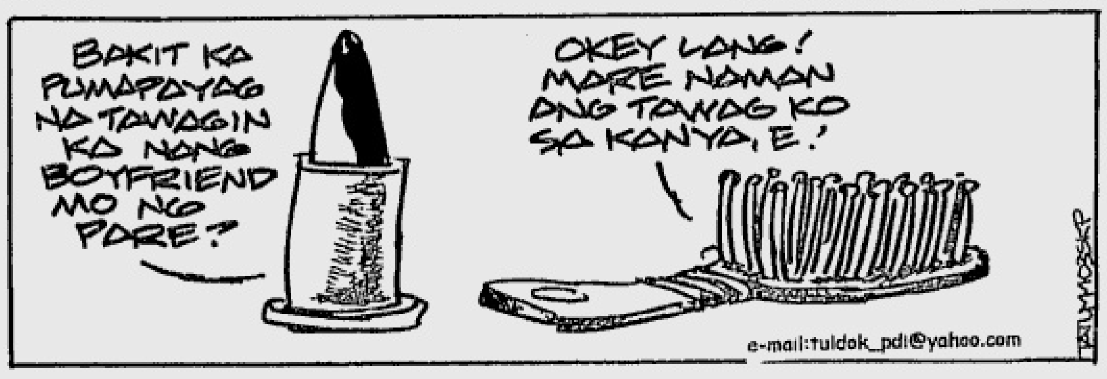
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUNG BINUHAY NI CRISTO SI LAZARO, ANO ANG TAWAG DUN?
MILAGRO!
NUNG NABUHAY NAMAG-MULI SI CRISTO, ANO'NG TAWAG DUN?
MILAGRO!
E, 'YUNG MULING NABUHAY AT NAKAPAG-OPEN NG BANK ACCOUNT NA MILYON-MILYON PESO? ANO'NG TAWAG DUN?
ISPIRITISMO?
HINDE! PIDALISMO!!
CHIONGLO

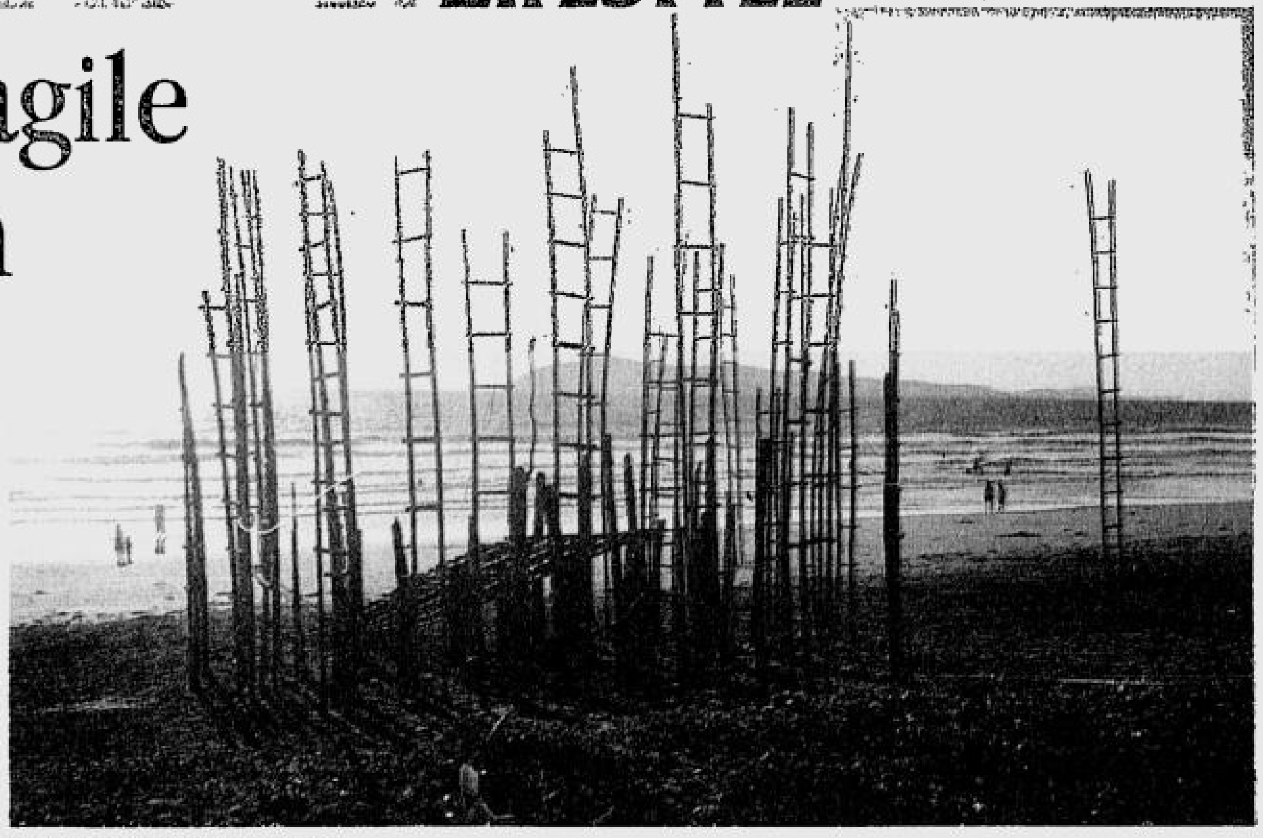
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT KA PUMAPAYAG NA TAWAGIN KA NONG BOYFRIEND MO NG PARE?
OKEY LANG! MORE NAMAN ANG TAWAG KO SA KANYA, E!
e-mail:tuldok_pdi@yahoo.com

Art of a fragile ecosystem

By Constantino C. Tejero



RONALDO Ruiz's "Agumomuc"

"OUR concept of art is that you frame it and put it in a museum," says abstractionist Joaquin Palencia. "But in ancient society, art is part of everyday life."

He cites as example the *bulol*, that wooden figurine of the Cordillera rice god, and continues: "The Cordillerans have no word for art, because it is integrated into their lives. Art is just part of life, it's functional, it's just a spoon, it's just a *bulol*."

The concept is elucidated in the exhibit "Linckia," ongoing until Sept. 5 in Artlane at the Ayala Museum.

This is the documentation exhibit of the 1st Bagasbas International Eco-Arts Festival held April 21-26 on a beach facing the Pacific Ocean in Bagasbas, Daet, Camarines Norte.

"I had been thinking about this project for a while," says Palencia. "Abstract *ako, eh*, and I always keep to myself, I don't know many people in the art circle—but at this point I wanted to reach out."

He started conceptualizing the project last December. In January, he talked to Reuben Cañete and asked him to curate.

With "The Future of Nature" as theme, the two selected six artists considered top in installation art, based on "track records and exposures to international festivals": Alfredo Juan Aquilizan, Henri Cainglet, Edille Paras, Hermisanto, Ronaldo Ruiz and Tony Twigg.

These artists were invited to participate in a festival that, according to the curatorial brief, "takes the indigenized sensibility of art-making within the community (fishnet-making, nipa-and-bamboo house construction, fruit harvesting) as its fulcrum, and emphasizes the participation of the community in the act of making works that celebrate its spirit of unity as a people coexisting within, and yet exploiting, a fragile ecosystem."

Degradation and balance

Palencia says they preferred that *"konti lang ang* artists, *para maalagaan, madaling ma*-monitor, *malinis ang trabaho."*

Each artist worked with a designated barangay, using materials and resources found within the host community. Each installation was allotted a space of 40 meters x 30 meters on the five-kilometer beach.

Main sponsor of the festival was Our Lady of Lourdes College Foundation. Palencia says they chose to hold it in April since the month is *"hindi ulanin, maganda ang dagat."*

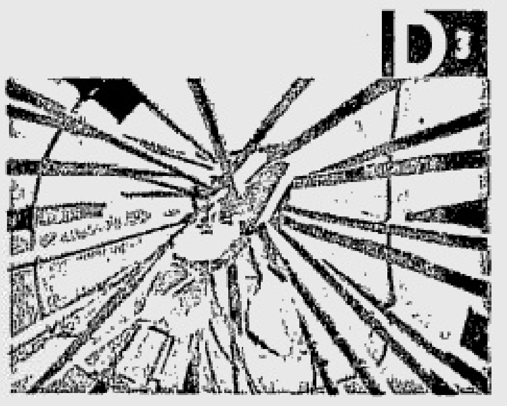
To realize and promote ecological balance and awareness of environmental degradation, materials used for the installations were either indigenous (bamboo, coconut husks, twine, palm fronds, *capiz* shells, coco lumber) or recyclable (old newspapers, rubber slippers, tin cans, bottles).

The installations were playful and functional, visually pleasing and filled with symbols. Their meanings varied according to individual viewers, and the artists' were not necessarily more valid.

Helping construct these large-scale artworks were barangay officials, fishermen and farmers, local artists and carpenters, students and out-of-school youths, members of the Daet Arts Council. This way, art had, indeed, become integrated into the life of the community.

Celebration and meditation

"We are demystifying art," says Palencia. "We tell the barangay that art is part of life, you don't have to study it, you encounter it everywhere... Now they can already do installation art during their fiesta. In that sense, we have given them something."



HERMISANTO'S "Taba-Taba Harong"

It is this community celebration of art and communal meditation on the environment that's documented in the Ayala Museum exhibit.

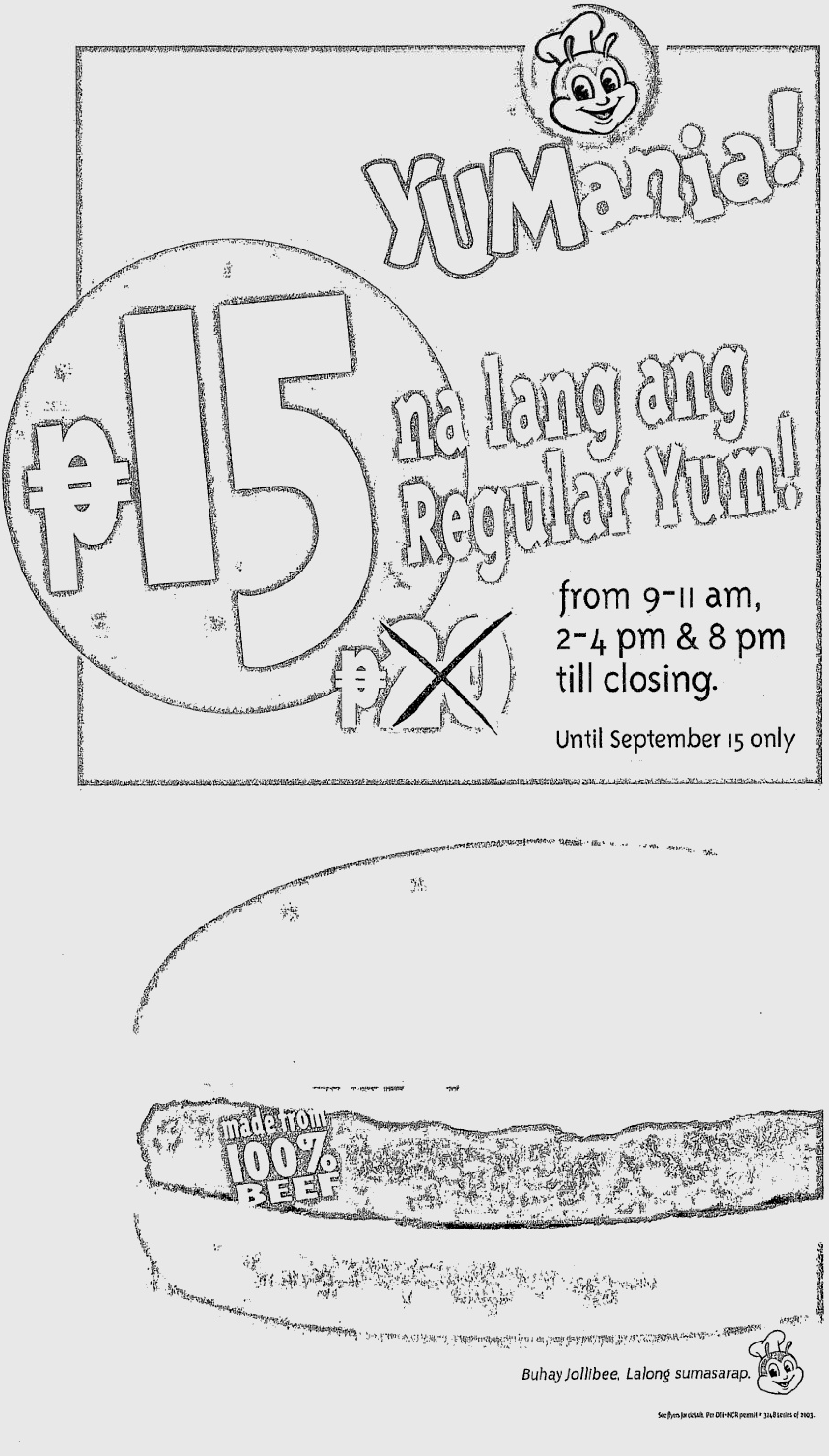
Here on the walls are mounted photographs of the festival and fragments of the installations, concept drawings, artists' statements. What one sees in this alley-like space looks like so much debris, but when one looks beyond these remnants, one sees how impressive the installations had been.

The exhibit is named after the scientific name of the blue *lingkya* starfish, a marine species that has the capacity to regenerate its severed arm into a whole body. Obviously it is a metaphor for the regenerative power of art and nature.

ALFREDO Juan Aquilizan's "Daing"

'Art with Mission' at Christ the King

THE SVD Mission Office Exhibit Hall mounts "Art with a Mission" on Sept. 4-14 at Christ the King Mission Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., QC. The exhibit will feature the works of Tam Austria, Angelito Antonio, Norma Belleza, Loreto Racuya, Pat Reyes, Jaime Kwong, Fatima and Raul Patindol.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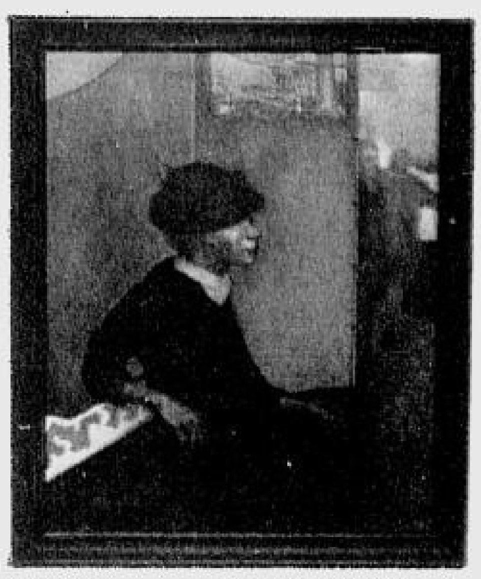


"SEATED Personage," by Juvenal Sanso, at Lopez

5 museums 'zero in' on . . .

From page D1

significant heritage towns of Taal, Batangas; San Miguel, Bulacan; Los Baños, Laguna; Corregidor, Cavite; Quiapo, Manila; and Puerto Galera, Mindoro.

The mapping was done by students of the Cultural Heritage Studies program of the UST Graduate School.

"Each site was culturally mapped through physical, oral and archival investigations that established the significance of the place," said Eric Zerrudo, exhibit curator and UST Cultural Heritage Studies professor. "Based on the statement of significance, conservation policy and interpretative programs were developed to preserve and enhance the meaning of the place to people."

During the opening of the exhibit, the UST Museum and the UST Graduate School will also inaugurate the UST Center for the Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics and launch the UST Museum website.

Call 8121191 (Ayala), 6312417 (Lopez), or 7811815 (UST).

LYDIA VELASCO'S ART

Woman bewitched by Eros

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE IMAGES are at once profoundly sublime and supremely seductive.

These are introspective if intimate explorations of the woman, who, in the raging gender war, has asserted herself. From their creator's point of view, the works mirror the quintessential woman as she finally breaks free from the barriers of religion and tradition.

These women are depicted by Lydia Velasco, who has evolved in her own struggle to transform the female consciousness from oppression to liberation.

For the last five years, Velasco's women have undergone their own metamorphosis, from the physical allure of "Scent of a Woman" to the psychological ethos of "Mujer Indigena." Now they evolve as spiritual creatures in "Gayuma."

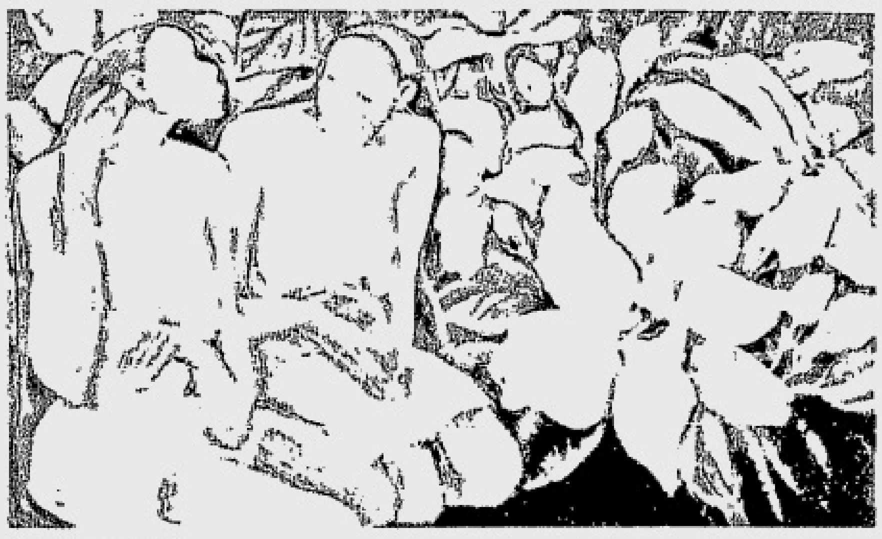
In the new show (ongoing at the Art Space in Glorietta Art Center until Sept. 4), Velasco has stripped her subject of inhibitions, from being the object of man's desire to becoming the subject of full-bodied fulfillment. It is clearly the more ambitious and satisfying show compared to her more modest show simultaneously being held at the Crucible at the Art Walk at SM Megamall.

At the Megamall, the artist explores the fullness of her subject's sexual allure, embodied in folk and popular provenance, as she infuses her women with warmth and appeal.

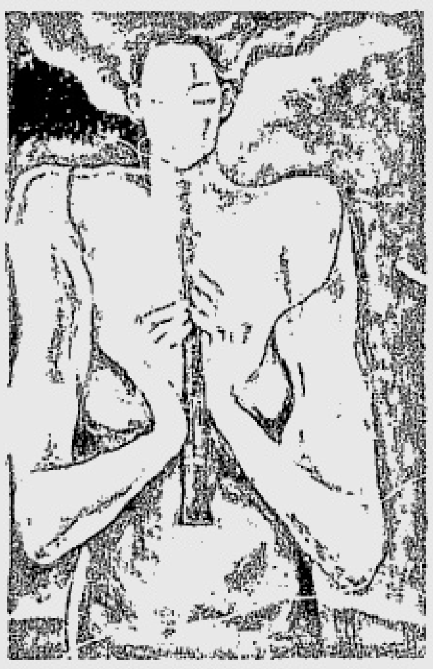
While other female artists may have flaunted the quintessential values of womanhood, Velasco has dared portray the woman in a way no other artist—male and female—has done, that is, as the chief protagonist in the arena of life and art.

Strong women

Strong of character, Velasco's women are depicted as chinky-eyed, with angular faces, endowed with lithe yet finely-toned bodies. They are shown as solitary creatures, as in "Flute" (doubtless one of the visually arresting in the collection), in groups of twos and threes, and often counterpointed by flowers that enhance their presence.



"SAMPAGUITA"



"FLUTE"

The motif is decidedly tropical and indigenous, which may initially compel the viewer to make undue comparison with Gauguin's Polynesian women. But that may seem odious since Velasco has come into her own as an artist who is fiercely feminine and feminist in her exaltation of erotic power.

The overarching power of Velasco's women stems from the artist's raw but introspective explorations of sex as an emotional rather than just a physical experience.

Captured in rich atypical hues, the flora does not detract from the allure of the women. The flowers, ranging from blooming *sampaguita* petals and iris to phallic-like birds of paradise, are lush and exotic.

In other pieces, the women of Velasco are elaborately garbed in turn-of-the century apparel, as in "Where Is Selya?" But the figures still come off seductive.

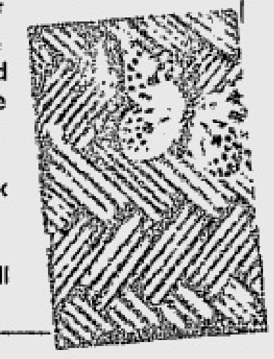
Velasco has ingeniously incorporated elements of collage, by way of bits of delicate finery, from lace and *calado* fabric that adorn the bodies of some of her subjects.

The artist confides that, with this exhibit, she has finally come full circle in her obsessive view of the woman as sexual creature. Indeed, an entire section is devoted to nudes, showing bodies entwined in the heat of passion, which, while alluding to the Kama Sutra of lovemaking, is as fresh and candid as the artist's vision.

This exhibit is more than a show of erotic power. It is a celebration of women, by a woman in whose art we find the wellspring of passion and power.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

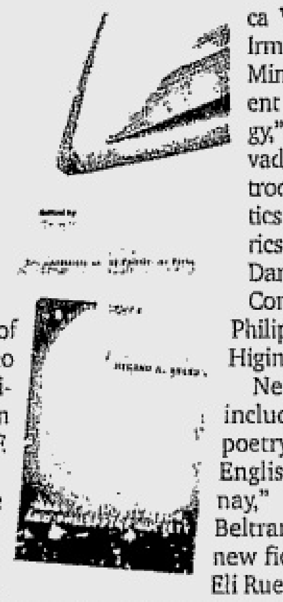
WEST Gallery shows New Jersey-based Gregory Ray Halili's "Butterfly Collection/Bamboo Series" on Sept. 4-16 at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The show features 55 miniature-scale watercolor paintings on paper. For the artist, butterflies remind him of the Philippine provinces, and in the show he explores how butterfly patterns stack up against bamboo designers. Call 6341284.



UP Press to showcase 40 titles

THE UP Press will celebrate the release of its recent titles with wine and song at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, on Sept. 6, 4 p.m.

To be launched is the UP Jubilee Student Edition for 2003: "A Tropical Winter's Tale and Other Stories," by Charlson Ong; "Reconnaissance," a novel by Tara FT Sering ; "Last Order sa Penguin," a play by Chris Martinez; "Onyx," a new collection of poems by Romulo Baquiran; "Tilad na Dalit," a book of experimental poems by Teo Antonio; and "Tinik sa Dila," a selection of poems in Filipino by Cirilo F. Bautista.

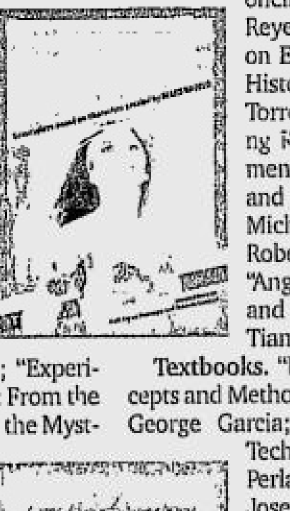


Scholarly titles include "Averting the Water Crisis in Agriculture," by UP Los Baños chancellor Wilfredo David; "Geotechnical Hazards: Nature, Assessment and Mitigation," by Rolando P. Orense; "Cases on Strategic Management in the Philippine Setting," edited by UP Diliman chancellor Emerlinda Roman; "Cases on Arts and Culture Management" and "Cases on Marketing Management in a Philippine Setting," by Ben Paul Gutierrez; "Performing the Self," by poet-scholar J. Neil C. Garcia; "Ang Pag-aaaral ng Wika," by Consuelo J. Paz, Viveca V. Hernandez and Irma U. Peneyra; "The Minori Cave Expedient Lithic Technology," by Armand Salvador B. Mijares; "Introduction to Statistics and Econometrics" by Rolando Danao; and "Mass Communications and Philippine Society," by Higino A. Ables.

New literary titles include the tri-lingual poetry book (Filipino, English, Iluko) "Lemlunay," by Herminio S. Beltran Jr.; "Pamilya," a new fiction collection of Eli Rueda Guieb III; "The Theatre of Director Julius Opus," by Edward Cabagnot; Domingo Landicho's "Mata ng Apoy"; and new works by expatriate writers Wilfredo Pascua Sanchez ("New and Later Poems") and Myrna Peña Reyes ("Almost Home").

UST launches 22 books

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Publishing House is launching 22 books on Sept. 5 at 3 p.m. during the Philippine Book Fair at the SM Megamall.



The 22 books are part of UST's 40 Books Project, which aims to publish 40 books a year until 2011, when UST marks its 400th year. The new books are:

Philosophy and theology. "Philosophy of the Compassionate Buddha," by Alfredo Co; "Experience, Reality and Beauty: From the Aesthetics of Ontology to the Mystagogy of Art in Metaphysics," by Macario Ofilada; "Ang Etika ni Sto. Tomas Aquino," by Tomas Rosario Jr.; "Faith, Violence, Values," by Fausto Gomez, O.P.; and "Love Letters from the Seminary" by Enrico Gonzales, O.P.

Medicine. "The Filipino Physician Today," by Dr. Eva Irene Yu-Maglonzo; and "Initial Management of Orthopedic Emergencies," by Dr. Jose Fernando Syquia.

Social science. "History and Culture, Language and Literature: Selected Essays of Teodoro Agoncillo," by Bernardita Reyes-Churchill; "Clio on Elephant: Essays in History," by Jose Victor Torres; "Mga Kuwento ng Kasaysayan ni Carmen G. Nakpil," edited and translated by Michael Coroza and Roberto Añonuevo; "Angono: Books 1, 2 and 3," by Ligaya Tiamzon-Rubin.

Textbooks. "Fundamental Concepts and Methods in Statistics," by George Garcia; and "Interactive Technical Writing," by Perla Villamarzo, Josephine Relis and Estrella Cruz.

Literature. "Darna: Screenplays Based on Characters Created by Mars Ravelo" and "Maranao," by Frank Rivera; "Ikatlong Bagting: Koleksiyon ng mga Bagong Tula ng Lira," by Virgilio Almario; "Talinghaga ng Gana," by Rebecca Añonuevo; "Ulos," by Arthur Casanova; and "Literature in Life" by Rustica Carpio.

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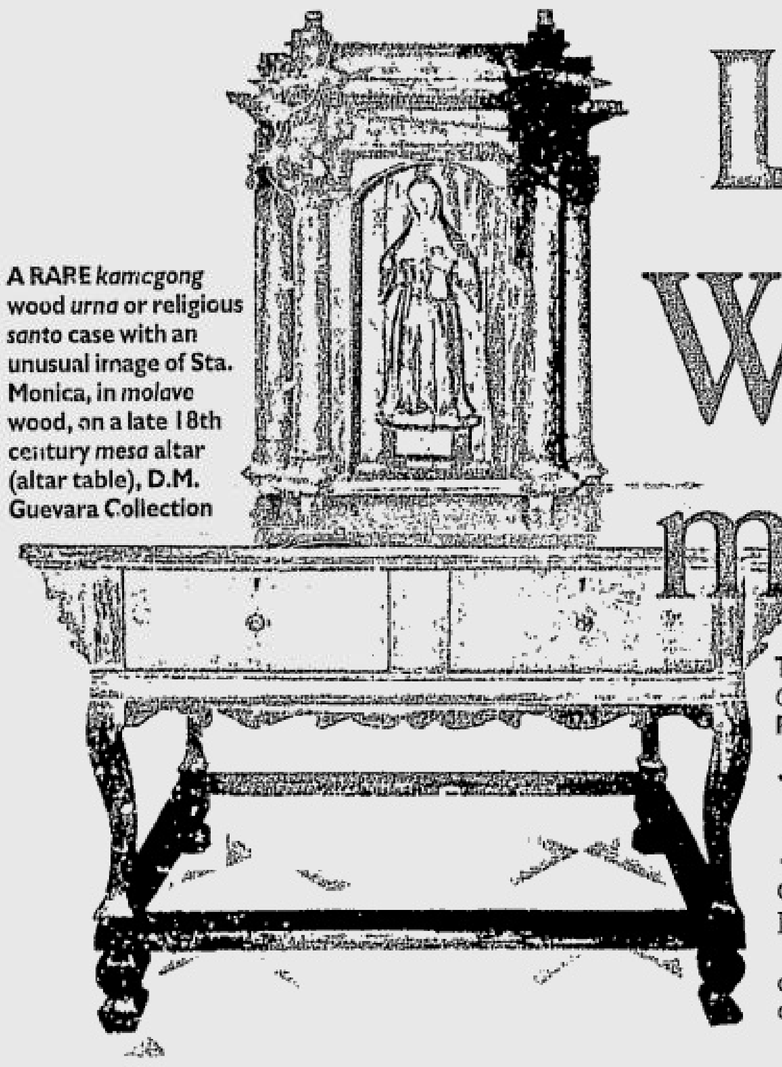
LIFESTYLE

Wealth *and* memory



A RARE *kamagong* wood *urna* or religious *santo* case with an unusual image of Sta. Monica, in *molave* wood, on a late 18th century *mesa* altar (altar table), D.M. Guevara Collection

Text by Ramon N. Villegas
Contributor
Photos by Betoy Johnson

FINALLY, a fitting and lasting home has been found for the D. M. Guevara Collection, originally housed at the Museo ng Buhay Filipino.

The Guevara Foundation turned over hundreds of religious art objects, furniture and decorative pieces, jewelry and costumes,

WEALTH/ E2

The D.M. Guevara Collection of lowland Christian-Filipino furniture and artifacts shows the evolution of the Filipino nation-state

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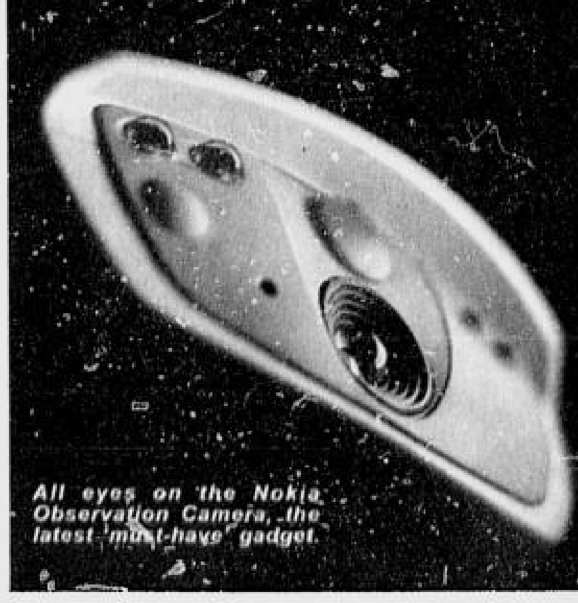
The Hub introduces MMS technology that watches out for you

Get a G-Cam Plan and experience another technological first at the Hub with the Nokia Observation Camera.

Television personality Pinky Webb poses with the Hub Trons at the recent launch of the Nokia Observation Camera at the Hub Podium.

The Nokia Observation Camera lets you keep an eye on things even when you're not home.



All eyes on the Nokia Observation Camera, the latest 'must-have' gadget.

Technology is truly the art of this era, when practically everything is quick and accessible through tools that allow us to simplify our lives with instant solutions.

At the HUB, Globe Telecom's retail platform of mobile trends and Globe technology, the latest wow gadget is the Nokia Observation Camera, which drew fast raves from the privileged few who were first to be introduced to its features and capabilities.

The Nokia Observation Camera is a mixture of a digital camera, a GSM transceiver, Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) and Short Message Service (SMS) technology packed in a bundle.

Here's how it works. Operating in tandem with your handset and Globe MMS Technology, the camera lets you check up and check in. Simply plug in the camera and aim the lens at a fixed point-in the nursery room where your child is sleeping, a room where your valuables are, in your stockroom, project site or store. The camera will then send images to your MMS-enabled phone, such as the Nokia 7250i, when you request them via text.

Another impressive feature of the Nokia Observation Camera is the fact that it can be programmed to send images when movement is detected. The built-in motion detector senses heat; only warm, moving objects will set it off. Use its automatic setting to take images at specified time intervals and these can be sent to your cellphone through MMS. It also has its own phone number and SIM card so if you want to hear what's going on around this gizmo, you can place a voice call and it will pick up sounds near its vicinity.

Using Globe MMS Technology the Nokia Observation Camera provides one with a sense of security. Images from it can be sent to your MMS-enabled phone.

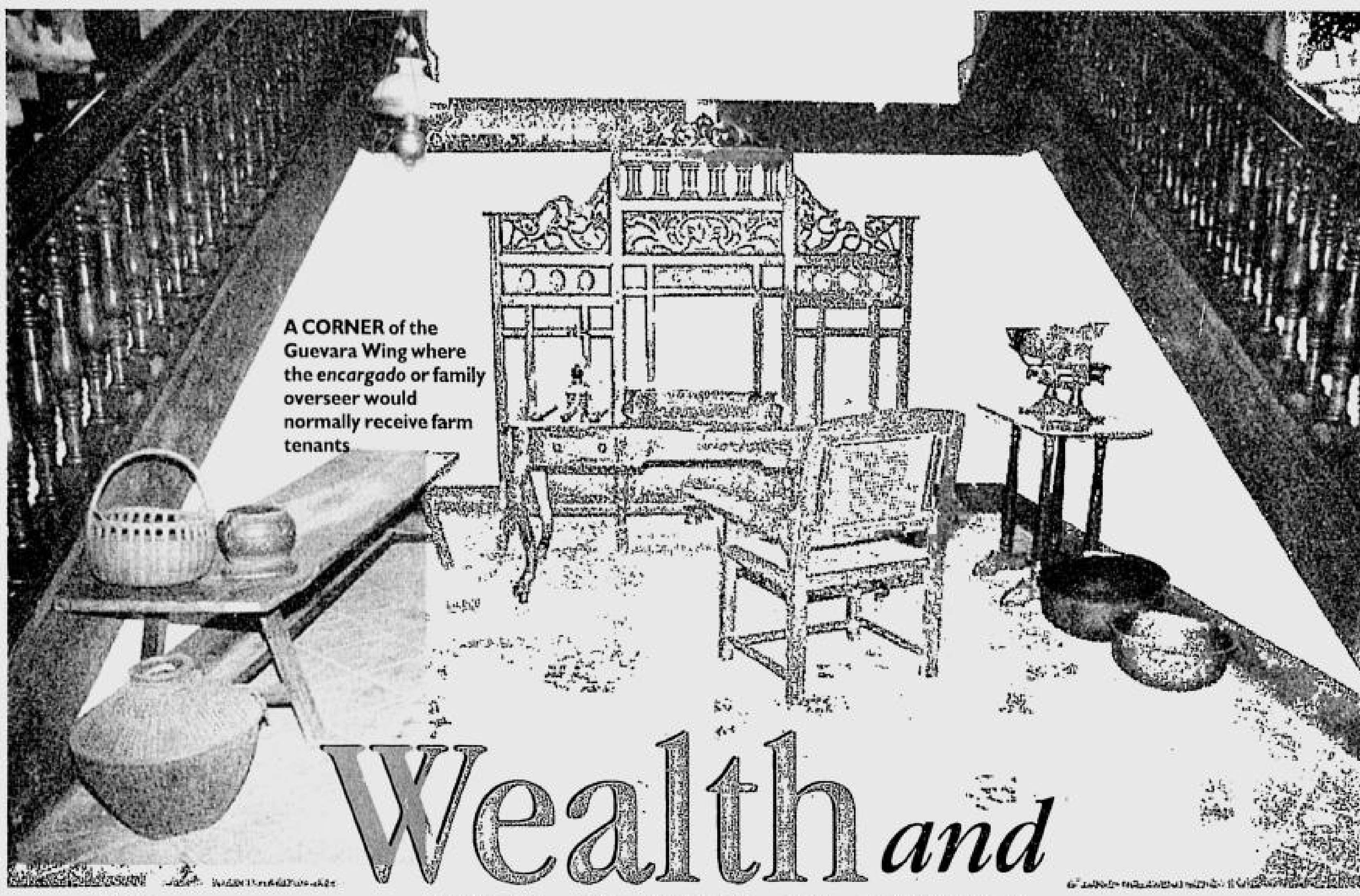
First-rate functions make the Nokia Observation Camera an ideal security companion for people constantly on the move. A prime example is broadcast journalist Pinky Webb, who hosted the recent launch of the Nokia Observation Camera at the HUB.

For Pinky, hectic days are the norm. But at the end of a busy work schedule, she chooses to unwind at her "sanctuary," as she likes to call it, a two-bedroom affair on the 21st floor of a posh condominium with a commanding view of the metropolis.

Pinky places a high premium on her home as she "built it from the ground up" since moving in three years ago. She says it's the place she has always wanted and worked hard for every bit of furniture and accessory to be as she liked it.

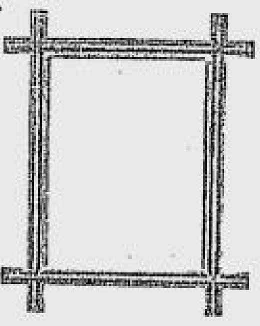
Upon checking out the Nokia Observation Camera, Pinky notes its value to people who relish the peace of mind that comes from knowing what's going on even when they're away. "It's a good security measure," she observes. "It's easy to install and you can check on your home, store or office at any time." She also points out how useful it can be for parents who may want to check on their kids during the day while they're at work. "It will ease the worries in the minds of moms and dads," she says. "They can see for themselves that hearth and kin are safe while they're not at home."

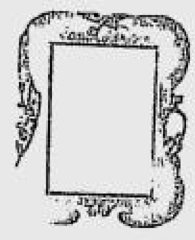
Experience how the Nokia Observation Camera can help provide you with a sense of constant communication. Globe Telecom is offering a G-Cam Plan for only 300 pesos, which covers 60 free MMS, monthly. An introductory offer of free one-month service is also open to subscribers who will immediately purchase a line. Now available at the HUB, with stores at Glorietta 4, Rockwell Power Plant Mall and The Podium.■



A CORNER of the Guevara Wing where the *encargado* or family overseer would normally receive farm tenants

Wealth *and* memory





From page E1

table and kitchenware, folk devices and implements to the Museo De La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The foundation was formed in the 1970s by Domingo M. Guevara. The self-made Bicolano delegate to the 1972 Constitutional Convention founded his fortune on Radiowealth, the first Filipino manufacturer of radios, and, later, television sets.

The Guevent (Guevara Enterprise) Group of Companies also assembled and distributed Volkswagen, Audi, Jeep and Menschel in the Philippines, as well as Sakbayan and Trakbayan. They were also into appliances, computers, Avis rentals, helicopter service, manpower development, handicraft export, aquaculture, consumer financing and other enterprises.

The foundation, composed of board members from the different Guevent companies, was headed by Carmen S. Guevara, the spouse of the tycoon. A teacher by training, she was into *ikebana* and civic work. She enjoyed cultural activities and avidly collected Asian jars found in the Philippines.

In 1975, she met with David Baradas, an anthropologist and a fellow Bicolano, to explore ideas for a museum. He was with the Nayong Pilipino's ethnographic museum, run by the Presidential Assistance for National Minorities (Panamin).

At that time, Philippine museums were collecting Western-influenced art, pre-Hispanic archeological material and artifacts from ethnic minorities. Baradas proposed a museum that would instead reflect the lifestyle of the lowland Christians—the Ilokano, Pangasinense, Kapampangan, Tagalog, Cebuano, Samar-Leyteho, Ilonggo and Bicolano—who consituted the majority of the Philippine population.

Museum

Baradas proposed restoring an old house and turning it into a museum, similar to Bangkok's Jim Thompson home, or others restored by the Thai royalty.

The foundation hired Baradas, who had become unhappy with his old job after seeing how martial law was exploiting the ethnic minorities.

Scouting for a location, they decided to lease a house in Parañaque built at the end of the 19th century by a British engineer named McDonough. Around 1915, Francis Burton Harrison, the American governor-general, used it as a summer residence.

It was not a grand house, but it was airy and spacious, with a splendid view of the Manila Bay sunset (now blocked by the reclamation). The owner, a Colonel Fusilero, was not interested in selling the property, but he was willing to rent it out and have it turned into a museum. It was perfect for a lifestyle museum, so it became known as the Museo ng Buhay Filipino.

Baradas gathered the commonplace and typical things that *lolas* used to use. The museum also acquired some very decent furniture, subsequently featured in the book "Turn of the Century," as well as the more recent Filipino style.

He had an open budget and was free to issue checks for any amount at any time. Yet he remembers spending not more than P300,000 for the contents and around P 40,000 for the renovation of the house (this was in the mid-1970s).

Today, all that would cover only half the cost of a single piece, like the bone-inlaid Sheraton-style sideboard from Bulacan.

The Museo ng Buhay Filipino opened on February 1977. It reaped publicity and goodwill for the conglomerate.

But the Guevara group of companies soon fell victim to the dictatorship. Government agencies squeezed their operations and banks called in loans.

The Guevaras lost their flagship companies, Radiowealth and DMG (Volkswagen). Crestfallen, they turned over their remaining businesses to their children and went to live abroad.

The foundation closed the museum. Yet, wanting to make the collection accessible to the public, the Guevaras entrusted the pieces to the Central Bank of the Philippines (now the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas), then headed by Jaime C. Laya. The bank had acquired parts of old houses and had plans to build a museum on a lot in the government center.

Meanwhile, the Guevara pieces were displayed, together with some of the bank's holdings, at the CB Complex in Quezon City.

However, Laya left the bank before the project could be completed.

In 1992, six years after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, the collection was turned over to the Nayong Filipino, which had even smaller galleries. Most of the pieces remained in storage during their 10 years at the theme park.

Donation

In 2001, the Guevaras lent some of the pieces to the Museo De La Salle, on the condition that those needing restoration be restored on the lendee's account.

Opened to the public in June 2000, the Museo De La Salle, located on the Dasmariñas, Cavite, campus, was built upon the initiative of then De La Salle University System president Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC, and administered by the DLSU-D Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Artifacts that demonstrate the traditional lifestyle of the lowland Christian majority are displayed within and outside a 19th century-style structure inspired by the Constantino house in Balagtas, Bulacan; the Arnedo-Gonzalez house in Apalit, Pampanga; and the Santos-Joven-Panlilio house in Bacolor, Pampanga.

The Museo's fine art, furniture and other decorative objects were donated by, or on long-term loan from, Gonzales, Laya, José Ma. Ricardo A. Panlilio, Maria Theresa Lammoglia-Virata, Victorina Vizcarra Amalingan.

When the Nayong Filipino had to give way to the expansion of the airport, the Guevara Collection again lost its home. In memory of their parents who had both passed away, the Guevara children—Carmen Guevara Monfort, Celia Guevara Lazaro and their brothers, Petronilo, Reynaldo, Domingo Jr., Roberto, Benjamin and Ricardo (all ironically from Ateneo de Manila)—decided in late 2002 to donate the D. M. Guevara Collection to the Museo De La Salle.

Today, the expanded holdings of the Museo De La Salle more than ever engages the imagination.

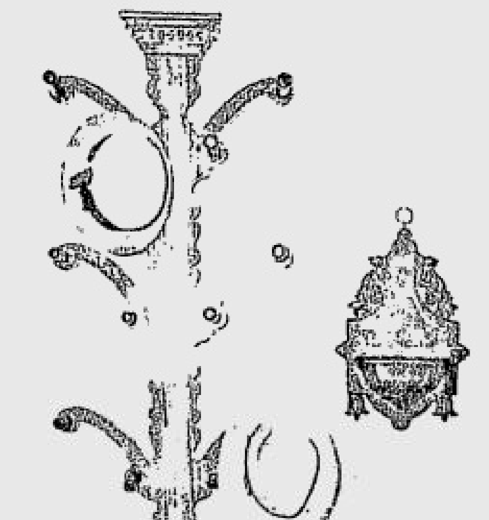
The founders of the Philippine nation-state grew up in cradles surrounded by such *santos* and *mesas altar*. They had wooed in such wood and cane seats, and loved under such four-poster bowers. They had worn such *relicarios* and clothes of *nipis* pressed with brass braziers. They had posed for silvery photographs in studied Revival and exuberant Art Nouveau frames.

They had lived out their lives seeing to the beginnings of industrialization and building up inner and material weal. They made it possible for us to become what we came to be in the late 20th century by charting the roadmap for our future.

By entrusting their Collection to De La Salle, the D.M. Guevara Foundation recognizes the endeavors and extensive research that went into the development of the Museo. And with the addition of the Guevara Collection, the Museo De La Salle can now be considered a cultural institution of national importance.

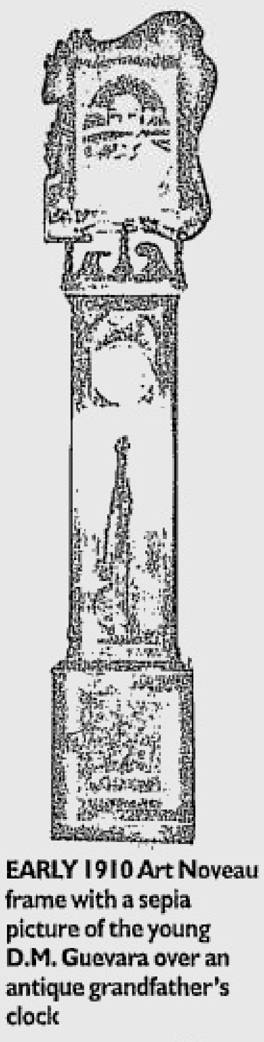
The DM Guevara Collection will have an inaugural opening at the Museo De la Salle on Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. It may be viewed at the Guevara Wing, Zaguan area of Museo, located at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas campus in Cavite. It is open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.–3:30p.m. For reservation and inquiries, please call (02)8447832/8449116 local 3151 or (046)416 4397. Look for Victor or Jop.

SEPIA photo of the young Carmen San Buenaventura, the future Ms D.M. Guevara, in a 1910 handcarved Art Noveau frame

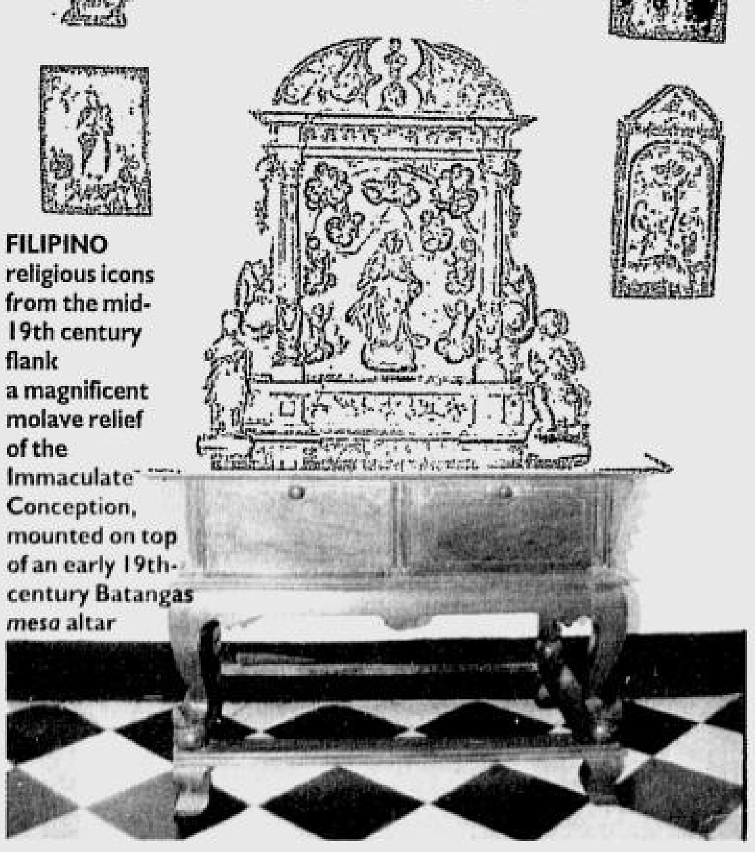


ANTIQUE hat rack holding woven Panama hats and an old letterholder

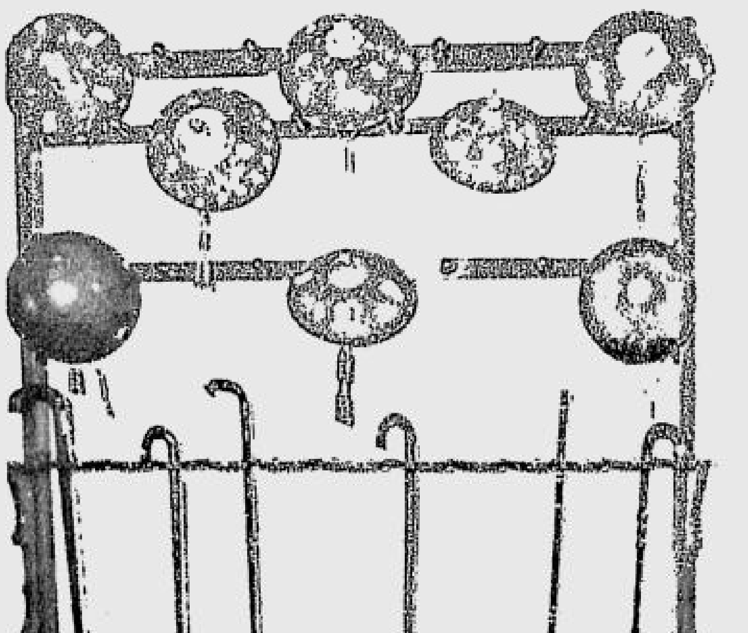
TABLEAU featuring mannequins dressed in 1920s *baro't saya* seated on an unusual chaperone's chair and Art Noveau frames on the wall



EARLY 1910 Art Noveau frame with a sepia picture of the young D.M. Guevara over an antique grandfather's clock



FILIPINO religious icons from the mid-19th century flank a magnificent molave relief of the Immaculate Conception, mounted on top of an early 19th-century Batangas *mesa* altar



RARE heirloom native *salakots* with pierced silver embellishments used by the 19th-century *cabezas de barangay* and handcarved *bastons* of *kamagong* wood

RUSTIC Ilocano four-poster handcarved bed, among the earliest pieces in the collection of Carmen S. Guevara

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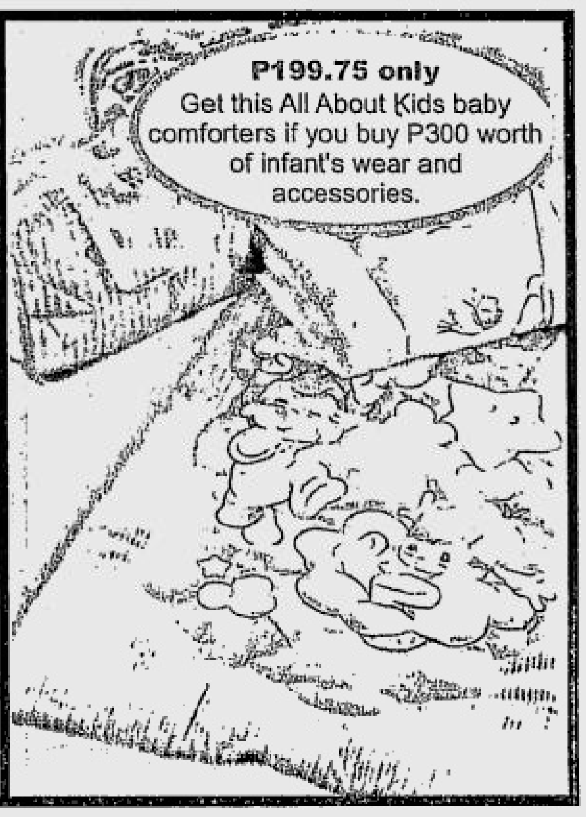

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Activities:

Magic Shows by Pengo
Sept. 13, 3 p.m., RDS Metropolis
14, 3 p.m., RDS Ermita
20, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East
21, 3 p.m., RDS Galleria

Mascot Visits by Nestle
Sept. 6, 3 p.m., RDS Galleria
7, 3 p.m., RDS Ermita
13, 3 p.m., RDS Imus
14, 3 p.m., RDS RP Sta. Rosa
Sept. 20, 3 p.m., RDS Dasmariñas
21, 3 p.m., RDS Metropolis
27, 3 p.m., RDS Novaliches
28, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East

Mascot Visits by Moose Gear
Sept. 6, 3 p.m., RDS Nepo Mall
6, 5 p.m., RDS Pampanga
13, 3 p.m., RDS Metro East
13, 5 p.m., RDS Galleria

Camera • Minnies & Mimi • Tender Luv • Ainon / Pengo • Kids Paradise • Morning Bell • Kids Basix • Moose Gear • Farlin • Soen Bebe
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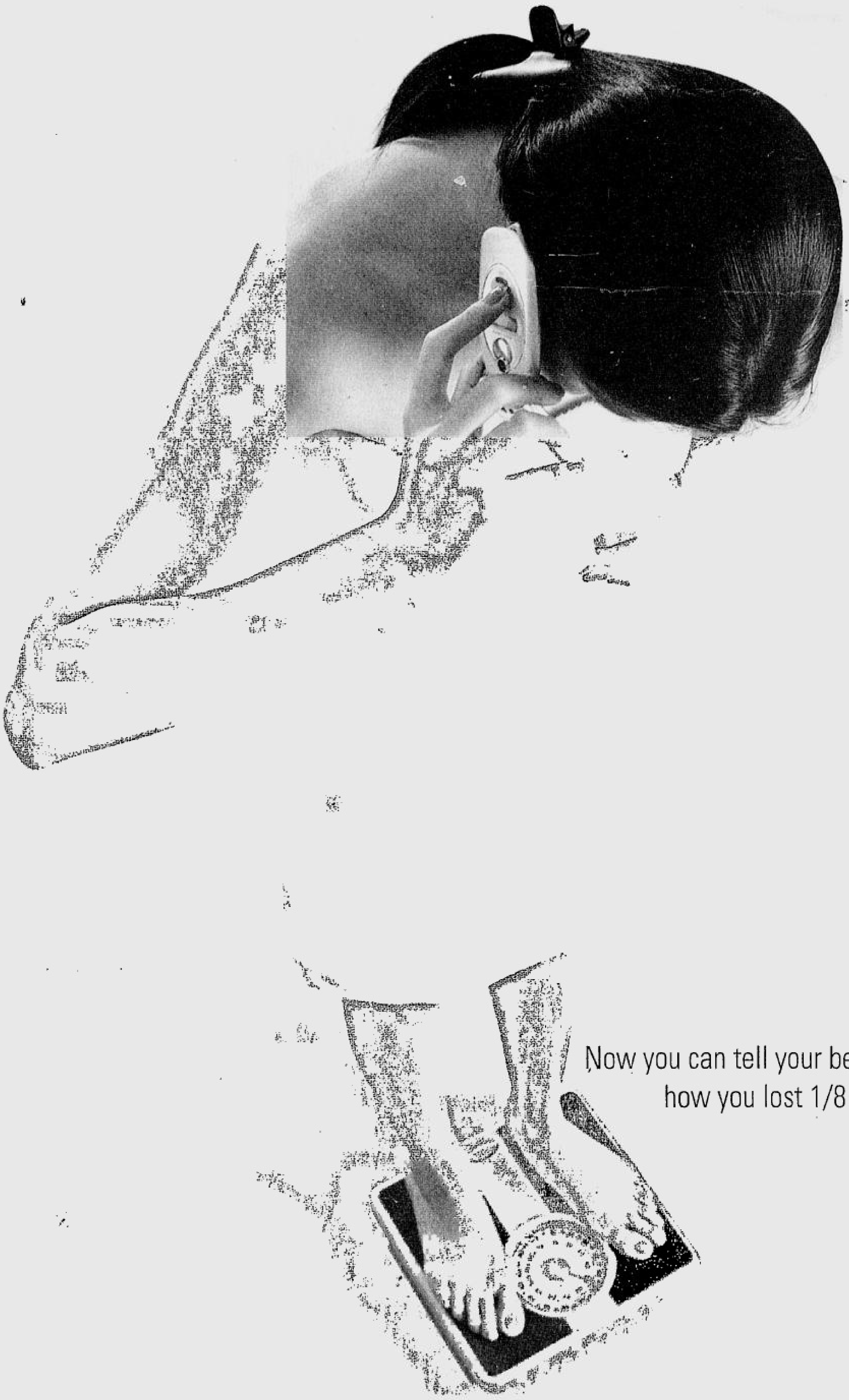

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